



**NEWS
&
VIEWS**

MARCH 2023



Fingringhoe Music Night

Last September the church was packed for a concert by The Old Engines and Phoenix Rising – of 60s covers, Celtic and other folk music, with the audience joining in the choruses. It was put on by the Friends of St Andrew’s, who raise funds to keep our wonderful ancient church in good repair.

Save the date: for another such event, on Saturday 10 June, when a group called The Hoolies will sing sea shanties.

Easter Lilies 2023

If you would like to remember your loved ones with lilies in church this Easter, please place their name/s with a donation of £3 per lily in an envelope. This can be put in the special box in the church or through Malcolm Hawksby’s door.



Judy Kimmance

Fingringhoe Food Bank Donation Point

We have a very active foodbank in this region, based at Colchester. We collect donations of food, pet food and toiletries in the porch at St Andrew’s Church Fingringhoe; this is then transferred to Colchester Foodbank.

For the first time ever, food banks are giving out more food than is being donated. With the cost of living soaring, more people are being forced to use foodbanks. Across the UK, an emergency food bank parcel is being given out every 13 seconds. In the Colchester region there has been a 47% increase in the number of people helped since the previous year.

Your donation will help the food bank to provide people facing financial hardship with food supplies and also information and advice to access the benefits and grants they’re entitled to.

How you can help: If you are out shopping and could spare an item, or have some unused and unwanted items, the Foodbank and the families they support would be very grateful. Donations of any in-date, tinned or dried food, pet food and toiletries can be left at any time in the large blue box in the porch at St Andrew’s Church, Fingringhoe.

A big thank you to those people who have been donating (often regularly) – your help really makes a difference.



The food bank currently particularly needs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>long-life milk
long-life juice
squash</p> <p>small bags of rice
tinned fruit
tinned potatoes
tinned tomatoes
tinned puddings
tins/packets of custard</p> | <p>jam, peanut butter
small jars of coffee</p> <p>small multipack snacks (Penguin/Club/Twix)</p> <p>shampoo, deodorants
tooth brushes
tooth paste
razors, shower gel</p> |
|--|---|



small washing powder/liquid

carrierbags
reusable bags

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*.

GEEDON GALLERY SPRING EXHIBITION

SMALL PAINTINGS GROUP & OTHERS

1–16 April 2023

Open 11am – 5.30pm daily

Then by appointment until 15 May

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



Jacqueline Taber RBA, *Blue & White Pots with Quince*

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks? There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. **Walking in Essex** (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. It has loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. It also lists books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more.

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Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. With walks from half a mile to over twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking! www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

John Harris



Update from the Parish Council

Play area The Council have now appointed a new contractor to carry out the maintenance on the play area and the repairs will be carried out soon. Also, the goal posts on the recreation ground have been tidied up and will be painted when the weather is warmer, some of the car park posts have been replaced and we have opened the old container and are looking to empty it and possibly get it moved away. Following the vandalism at the play area, we have been working with the Community Policing Team who have been making regular visits to the area. The lease for the recreation ground has also been renewed for another 10 years to June 2032.

20's Plenty for Us As most of you will be aware, the paper petition was delivered to every household and was also available on our website, the deadline for responses was 28 February. Some of you have asked why only some of Fingringhoe has been included in the petition. The map provided shows only the possible extent of the 20-mph zone. If implemented, ECC highways would decide the final zone after full consultation. To view the survey: www.fingringhoepc.org.uk/20s-plenty

Pigs Foot Green posts Work should be underway to replace the posts by the time of publication.

Telephone box book swap With the help of a local teenager, the telephone box has been turned in to a book swap which is proving popular with all age groups.

Sand works verges We have been looking into the ownership of these verges as there is often wild camping in these areas. We believe they are owned by Essex County Council, and we are working with Cllr Bentley to confirm this.

Road signs We have been in contact with Essex County Council Highways several times to report broken, missing or new signage needed in the village. If you spot anything new that needs to be reported, please use the ECC reporting tool on their website: www.essexhighways.org/tell-us and copy-in the clerk: fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com

We have also arranged a video call with Cllr Kevin Bentley and the Operations Manager for Ringway Jacobs to discuss the ongoing issues. Meanwhile, the *Give Way* signs on the road at The Whalebone have been repainted but we are told there is not sufficient room to safely put up a sign there. Some of the signs have been reinstated and we are advised that the VAS on Chapel Road, first reported by us in July 2022, will be fixed soon.

Council meetings 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. The Council are pleased to report that the acoustics in the hall are now much improved, making the sound levels much more comfortable.

Website The website has been further updated with news items and information about groups and organizations in the village. If you would like something added, please let the clerk know.

Other City News City Status – Colchester officially received City status on 23 November 2022. Take a look at this website to see the celebrations going on this year. www.visitcolchester.com/whats-on/year-of-celebration.

Booking system for recycling

From Monday 13 March you will have to book your slot to visit the local recycling centres (including Shrub End and West Mersea). More information is on our website under News. We are advised this is for a trial period.

Other Council information

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

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk

Calling all small businesses that offer care and support services in their community!

If you are looking for more customers in your local area, joining the Community Micro-enterprise Project, a free programme from Essex County Council, could really help connect you to the people that need you the most.

Local people supporting local people.

For further information please email micro.enterprise@essex.gov.uk

 Essex County Council
Adult Social Care



Fingringhoe
Wick Nature
Reserve



Essex
Wildlife Trust

There is a sense of anticipation in the air as we look forward to welcoming some of our returning summer visitors. The first Spring arrivals are already with us, this migration sometimes referred to the Great Rush North, as birds that overwintered in warmer southern climes, race back northwards to their summer breeding grounds. There is a sense of urgency in the air with the best territories and best mates up for grabs for those first arrivals to stake their claims.

Some species are with us already, including blackcap, chiffchaff and wheatear and we're now waiting for the familiar sights and sounds of the cuckoo, swallow and swift. For us at Fingringhoe that means the nightingale too and we're excited to be welcoming back these little birds soon.

We are fortunate enough to have a one of the largest populations of nightingales in the East of England. Arriving all the way from Africa, these small birds (slightly larger than a sparrow) are famous for their scintillating song, one that has mesmerised people since Roman times. They are rather dull and nondescript to look at, though you won't often see them – not even when you try really hard! – as they like to hide in really dense thick scrub. You will hear them as the males sing for hours and hours, marking their small territories and trying to attract a female.



To experience this amazing wildlife spectacle for yourself, we will be opening the Reserve until 9pm on the following evenings so that you can walk round and listen to these birds yourself: 28 April, 1, 5, 6 and 10 May. Or book a guided tour on 25, 27, 29, 30 April, 2, 4, 9, 11, 13 and 14 May. Keep an eye out for other events on facebook or our website:

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/fingringhoe>

As we do come into Spring, with nesting birds and the awakening of the adders, please can I remind any dog walkers that there is a set dog walk route on the Reserve, along the drive, and that our furry friends must be on a lead at all times – but they are very welcome to come and say 'hi' in the visitor centre if you want to bring them in when you have a coffee.

Yoga with Linds in the Village

I have space on Thursday nights,
Hatha Yoga in the Village Hall.

Please do message me for more information:
yogawithlinds22@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

£ £



Fingringhoe Ted

Ted was born on 3 July 1982, a gift from my brother on the birth of my first child, a little girl. He sat for many years in the corner of her bedroom and as a baby she would sit on his lap and fall asleep.

During lockdown I was clearing out my loft – as you do – and came across Ted and wasn't sure what to do with him. He was getting on a bit so I decided it would be a great idea to sit him on a bench in the village and put a mask on him with a stethoscope and white T-shirt to hopefully bring a smile to people's faces when they passed on the odd occasion we were allowed out to do our shopping etc. I ordered a NHS banner to say 'Thank you' to all the key workers and this is how it all began.

After a few weeks it seemed a little boring to just leave him in the same outfit so as each month passed I dressed him up appropriately for an occasion during that month. A couple of little friends appeared to join Ted, so I dressed them up as well.

Ted has now been on the bench for about two years and I managed to think of 12 different outfits, but in January 2023 I decided it was best to remove him as he had probably outstayed his welcome.

However, to my surprise, posts on the Fingringhoe Village Facebook page started to ask where Ted had gone. So I took him to the launderette for a good clean up and once I had repaired him I put him back on his bench in January and dressed him up for Burns Night.

In November 2022 I made a calendar of Ted's outfits for each month and had 100 printed. There are still some calendars left – available for £4 at the School, the Village Hall, the Community Shop, the Post Office and outside 18 Brook Hall Road. Proceeds go to the School and Pre-School in the village.

I am more than happy to keep Ted going, with his changing outfits – but should you feel that his time on the bench is over then please contact the Parish Council.

Carole Nickelson



Is it time to start talking about the elephant in the room?

Have you considered your plans for future care?

Talk to your loved ones about your priorities for your future healthcare, then ask your GP about the **My Care Choices Register**.

www.mycarechoices.online

MY CARE CHOICES REGISTER

Next litter pick: on Saturday 25 March

Meet at the Village Hall at 9am.

Let's keep our village pristine.

A pleasant walk around our village with a little litter picking on the way!

Equipment provided – first come, first served.

All welcome. **WE NEED YOU!**

We continue to look at projects within the village, working with the Parish Council's 'wilder town, wilder villages' initiative.

Any suggestions welcome please email: fingringhoegreengroup@gmail.com

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!



Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

The children are now half-way through their school year – the time has certainly flown.

The School Council has been meeting regularly to discuss the many items that appear on the agenda. The children are very good at discussing their ideas and allocating tasks so that the agenda items are carried out and completed. The School Councillors have held nominations and elections for wellbeing buddies, established toilet monitors, discussed the installation of a bug hotel and liaised with the catering manager over a salad bar at lunch time. I know that they will continue to be busy over the rest of the term.

During the latter part of the Autumn term, Mr Payne took the football squad to a tournament at Shrub End. This was the first competition that many of the squad had played in and they were so excited to participate in this event. They played extremely well and received a lot of support from cheering parents. We were all delighted at the end of the tournament when they emerged as winners! They won all their matches and did not concede a single goal! We were all so proud of them.

The Nativity Plays, PTA Christmas Fayre and KS2 Christmas Service were all really successful and all who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Many visits have taken place over the course of the term, including going to Aveley Lodge and Church Green Trust. Year-4 children have started swimming lessons and the Fencing Club continues to be a very popular after-school activity.

Reverend Terry Walker and the Open Book Team from Mersea have been coming into school and delivering 'Open Book' sessions to the children. This involves sharing Bible stories through performance style activities, which helps bring the stories to life.

We look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Take care and keep safe. From all at Fingringhoe CEVA Primary School.

Donna Parker and Ruth Cornell
Interim Headteachers

From St Andrew's Church



A Time for Reflection

A year has passed since my licensing as Curate-in-Charge of Fingringhoe with East Donyland (or Rowhedge) and Abberton with Langenhoe. By the time you read this it will be spring – that is if you go by the meteorological calendar in which spring begins on 1 March.

When the days get longer and, hopefully, not too much frost is on the ground, in the Church calendar we will be in the season of Lent and you'll probably hear someone say, 'what are you giving up for Lent?' The traditional answer is chocolate, sugar, or beer, with any money saved given to a good cause. Some might even give up their screen time. Lent is a time for self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. I would just like to reflect on the year gone by before I reflect on any of the above.

I have three churches, St Andrew's, Abberton, St Lawrence's, Rowhedge, and St Andrew's, Fingringhoe. We reflect on the joy of that first weekend of June when the villages, in their own ways, celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking her 70-year reign as our monarch. Then came the sadness of her majesty's death in September, and the splendour with which the nation showed its respect.

As we reflect on how the nation came together first to celebrate and then to grieve, may we also as individuals, as families, reflect on the joyous and sad occasions we have had this past year, remembering friends, a community and a Church that will support us in these times of personal happiness and heartbreak.

I thank you all for our conversations over my first year at St Andrew's, Fingringhoe. May I also thank Malcolm, Ellis and Sheena for the help and guidance they have given. May we all long continue journeying together. See below for the Benefice Easter service timings. You don't have to wait until April. You shall be made most welcome at any of our services.

Reverend Terry

Improved audio system

Towards the end of 2022, the Parochial Church Council and the Friends of St Andrew's agreed on joint-funding of a new collaborative project – a major upgrade of the church's audio system, incorporating technological advances since the modest existing kit was installed in 2018.

Local experts Marks Tey Radio were invited to undertake a survey and from this a bespoke package was designed to improve the quality of music and speech reproduction and ease of use.

Installation went ahead over February's half-term holiday week when the church was not in use between one Sunday and the next. The new system has more and larger speakers, giving fuller sound with reduced reverberation.

BENEFICE EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday (April 2)

9.15am Matins, St Andrew's, Fingringhoe
9.15am Holy Communion, Abberton
11am Holy Communion, Rowhedge

Holy Week (Monday, Tuesday Wednesday April 3, 4, 5)

7pm Compline, St Andrew's, Fingringhoe

Maunder Thursday (April 6)

Agape Meal, followed by Stripping of the Altar and a Prayer Vigil, St Andrew's, Fingringhoe

Good Friday (April 7):

11am–12pm Reflections, St Andrew's, Abberton
11am–12pm Reflections, St Lawrence's, Rowhedge
2pm–3pm Stations of the Cross, St Andrew's, Fingringhoe

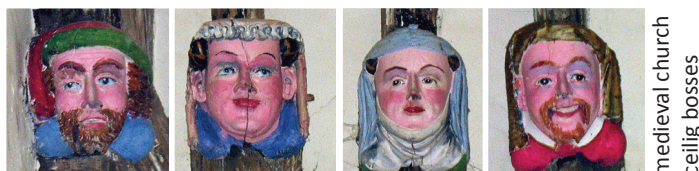
Easter Sunday (April 9)

9.15am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Fingringhoe
11am Non-Communion service, Rowhedge waterfront
12pm Holy Communion, St Lawrence's, Rowhedge

SUNDAY SERVICES AT FINGRINGHOE

1st and 4th, 9.15am Matins
2nd and 3rd, 9.15am Holy Communion

On a 5th Sunday there is a 10am United Benefice Holy Communion, hosted in turn by Abberton, Fingringhoe, Rowhedge. The next 5th Sunday is 30 April, when the service will be at St Lawrence's, Rowhedge.



medieval church ceiling bosses

These have been fitted on the nave and chancel roof beams at a height closer to people's ears than the old ones.

There are three new microphone sockets to provide greater flexibility; two gooseneck floor-stand mics; a mic socket on the pulpit; a wall cabinet containing a more-powerful mixer/amplifier with Bluetooth connectivity, slot-loading CD player and USB connection for direct playback from other audio devices with a headphone socket; and a dual-band equaliser to optimise audio quality. Other features are a larger-size induction Loop amplifier for the benefit of hearing-aid users and rechargeable lapel radio mics.

Taken altogether, the system devised for us by Marks Tey Radio packs a powerful punch and should meet the church's needs for many years to come.

Malcolm Hawksby, churchwarden

Fingringhoe Historical Recorders

The Recorders are a group of Fingringhoe residents interested in the history of their village. Since its formation in 1981 the group has been building an archive of material about the people, topography, buildings, activities, industries and events of the village. This includes press cuttings, letters, photographs, posters, trophies, books, maps, drawings and personal accounts 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. The archive is stored in Fingringhoe Village Hall.

In order to make this material more easily accessible to anyone interested in the history of Fingringhoe, the archive has recently been catalogued on computer. Each of over 6,000 items has been numbered, described briefly and scanned or photographed. This database is searchable to make it easier to find items. These files will continue to be updated from time to time to include newly-gathered material. This database record is also now freely available via a digital memory stick which can be borrowed from the Recorders (with just a small returnable deposit) to anyone who wishes to review the records.

The recorders are also keen to secure more village records that villagers may have in their personal possession to be copied for the Archive. The group also welcomes new members. For further information, please contact the group by email: fingringhoerecorders@gmail.com

Between **2pm – 4.30pm on Monday 1 May 2023**, the Recorders will be at Church Green to exhibit some Archive items and provide the opportunity to search the Archive, accompanied by tea and cakes. More details will be available nearer the time in the Post Office and on the village noticeboards.

Would you consider joining the Friends of St Andrew's Church?

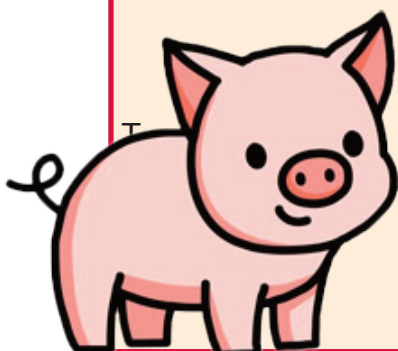
We are a charity, formed in 2006, on a non-religious basis, to help maintain, repair and improve the fabric of our lovely medieval church, for the benefit of the whole community and visitors.

Fundraising activities were of course cancelled during the Covid 19 pandemic, but our funds also grow steadily through annual members' subscriptions (£20 individual or £30 family) and we would very much like to welcome newcomers to our membership. Please contact me if you would like to join us, or need further information:

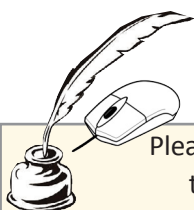
Mark Jones, Chair
markdjones10@hotmail.com



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To everyone who kindly
made donations
towards the cost of
printing *News & Views*.



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