

Update from the Parish Council

Parish Council logo Some of you may have noticed from minutes and agendas that we now have a new logo. We have received some lovely feedback about this and hope you agree it makes our official documents look more corporate.



Play area We have been granted some more funding from Cllr Kevin Bentley councillors' fund, to top up the level of the play bark. We are also getting some quotes to have the car park surface levelled off and some road plainings put down.

School parking We have been discussing the parking outside the school with Hannah, the school head teacher and arrangements are now in place for the school staff to park at the village hall, which should alleviate some of the parking congestion outside and opposite the school.

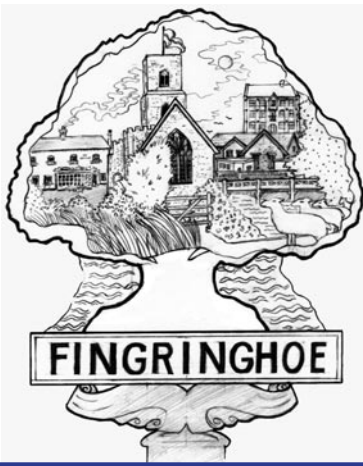
Village Sign After much deliberation, a new sign has been ordered and will be placed in its original position.

Sand works verges signs 'No Overnight Camping' signs have been ordered and hopefully installed by the time you read this. We hope this will prevent the overnight camping and all the unpleasant litter that goes with it. We do not want to put off visitors from visiting the area and advise that the Recreation Ground car park is open during the day, everyday.

Community Policing Team/Rural Engagement Team Our current contacts are PCSO Adam Ryder from the CPT and PC Martin Baumber from the RET. Both teams are keen to work together and with the village, to help problem-solve issues we have that are affecting the community. They also take part in a lot of engagement events throughout the year, and rural road safety. They would like to attend community events, to get to know the area and people and, as part of the rural road safety patrols, can take part in enforcing speed limits in problem areas. The twitter page is @EPRural to see some of what they do. Contact details are on the Parish Council website:

<https://www.fingringhoepc.org.uk/local-information/living/>
I have already been in touch with Martin about some speeding issues and they are looking for a suitable speed-gunning location. Ideally, they need a 30mph zone with a good straight road and somewhere to stop a vehicle. If you are aware of a suitable location (not a private driveway) please contact the clerk.

update continues.....



NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH 2024

Geedon Gallery Spring Exhibition Members of the Art Workers' Guild & Others

23 March – 7 April open daily 11am–5.30pm
(then open by appointment until 15 May)

The Art Workers' Guild was founded in 1884 by young architects and designers, many of whom were prominent figures of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Its principle of 'learning by doing' has spread through art education and has had a worldwide influence. A respect for quality, for craftsmanship, for the work of the hand, and a recognition of the healing, humane value of craftsmanship still characterises the Guild.

This exhibition explores the talent of this eminent Guild in painting, ceramics, glass, jewellery, letter cutting, lute making, photographs, prints, sculpture, textile and wood carving. East Anglian artists represented include Ron Sims, A. Lincoln Taber, Jacqueline Taber, Graham Rust, Ivy Smith, lute maker Martin Bowers and sculptors Carl Newman and Josh Locksmith.

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



Anne Hickmott, linocut, *Poppies*

English Rural Housing – Barnfields

The Council have recently been made aware that if you would like to be considered for any vacancies that become available at this development (or similar affordable housing), you must be registered on the local housing register before you will be considered. Often there is a requirement for a local or family connection as well, as there is with Barnfields. This means that people who meet the criteria and are local, or have a local connection, will be considered first. The links below will give you more information about the register. <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/housing/>
<https://www.gov.uk/housing-association-homes>

Caravan – Haye Lane With the help of the local Community Neighbourhood Services at Colchester City Council, the fly-tipped caravan was removed as quickly as it could be. Many thanks to the residents who reported this immediately, effecting the process of a 7 days' notice for removal, during which time the City Council contacted the person associated with the number plate (handwritten and so not legal) to give them the opportunity to respond and/or claim it, which they did not. Subsequently the caravan has been removed and destroyed by a City Council contractor. If you need to report anything that has been fly tipped, please use <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article?id=KA-01131>

Ferry Road The Council are aware of the broken railings in Ferry Road and have reported this to ECC several times. More recently we have asked that if they cannot yet be repaired, could they be taken away to tidy the area up?

Precept As you will be aware the precept has hardly changed for the last five years but with increasing costs and no income sources other than the precept or grants, the council agreed to increase the precept this year from £11,507 to £13,136, an increase of £1629. Any balance of overspend will be met by the Parish Council reserves.

John Brunning Walk The Council recently held an on-site meeting with a member of East Donyland Parish Council and an ECC Highways/England Coast Path in Essex officer. The meeting confirmed that most of the John Brunning Walk is over the East Donyland boundary (FP25) and that while ECC would permit either council to carry out work on the muddy sections of the path (with the landowner's permission) to make the path easier underfoot, the cost is very high. The officer has requested ECC funding for this and I will provide an update in the next edition and council minutes. Meanwhile, the route has been earmarked for improvement as part of the Coast Path project, but this is likely to be in 2025 or 2026.

20 mph speed limit The Chairman of the Parish Council, Gerald Ketley and the Parish Clerk recently presented a village-wide petition for a 20-mph speed limit for village roads, to the local County Councillor Kevin Bentley. 138 people signed the petition and the formal process to investigate the possibility is now underway. Evidence will now be gathered by Essex Highways to see if the limit is justified and if the results of speed surveys comply, then a full consultation with local residents will take place. Cllr Kevin Bentley will now hand the petition to the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, to add weight to the campaign.



'Children Walking' sign The Council have recently donated two portable 'Slow – Children Walking' signs to the school, to put out on the route on Church Road when the pupils walk to and from the outdoor classroom. We hope that these will alert drivers to take special care while the children are on the road.

Council meetings and information We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm at the village hall. This year the April meeting is on Wednesday 3 April, due to Easter being the weekend before. 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; minutes of the meeting are also published on the website.

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

The website is regularly updated with information about the village. If you would like something added, please let the clerk know.

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk



Fingringhoe Women's Institute continues to thrive, led by our current president Ann Chamberlain. Last year we had some

interesting speakers on a wide range of topics, including time spent teaching in Japan, being a child evacuee and modern Christmas flower arrangements. We have a thriving darts team who practice every Monday in the club and play in the Essex WI darts league. We have a regular walking group who meet on a Wednesday and a knit-and-natter group who meet once a month.

Last year we visited the theatre three times: in April *Goodnight Mr Tom* at the Headgate, in May *Great Expectations* at the Mercury and in January *My Fair Lady*, also at the Mercury. At the end of April we visited Ulting Wick Gardens at the height of the tulip flowering, which was quite spectacular, as was the meadow full of cowslips. In June we went to Hollytrees Museum in town, followed by lovely coffee and cake. August saw seven of our members enjoy a three-course summer lunch along with 94 other WI members from around Essex at Clacton Golf Club, followed by an interesting talk about restoring an Old Essex Barge. The week after this was our own summer lunch party in Ann's lovely garden.

October was a busy month. Six members went to the 'Knitting and Stitching' show at Alexandra Palace on a very unseasonably warm day. We also enjoyed a visit to Warner and Sons silk archives in Braintree – that was a very wet day! On a Saturday later that month seven of us went to London by train to meet ladies from other Essex WI's for a guided walking tour of Spitalfields. We learned about the silk weavers who lived there and how the houses were built to accommodate their huge looms.

This year we have some interesting speakers arranged for our meetings, ranging from cheese-tasting to police misconduct! We also have an exciting coach trip to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens in Norfolk.

If you would like to come and see if the WI is for you, we meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the village hall, our meetings start at 7.30pm. Visitors are always very welcome.

Jill Bellinger

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



MOVING IMAGE

Wivenhoe's volunteer-run community cinema

Just across the river, Moving Image shows high-quality contemporary films from English-speaking and other countries, as soon as possible after their release on DVD.

Films start at 7.30pm in the William Loveless Hall, Wivenhoe. Buy your tickets on the door (card only): members £5, non-members £7, students/young people FREE!

- 5 March **Scrapper** (2023)
director Charlotte Regan
- 19 March **Joyland** (2022)
director Saim Sadiq, Pakistani
- 2 April **Wonka** (2023) director Paul King
- 16 April **20,000 Species of Bees** (2023)
director Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren, Spanish
- 30 April **One Life** (2023) director James Hawes
- 7 May **Full Time** (2021) director Eric Gravel, French
- 21 May **Smoke Sauna Sisterhood** (2023)
director Anna Hints, Estonian



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OPEN
8AM TO 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
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9AM-NOON SUNDAY

The Lion Corner Community Shop
1 Lion Corner, Langenhoe CO5 7LF

Entrance off Fingringhoe Road

07708 403292

www.lioncornercommunityshop.co.uk



The 2024 Fingringhoe Calendar was produced using photographs selected from entries to the 2023 photography competition. Although fewer calendars were sold than last year, we still made a profit of £308.

£104 of this paid for a water heater to be installed at Church Green Trust (home to the visiting Post Office) and £150 was donated towards the costs of *News and Views*. The remaining £54 was spent on bird boxes to be placed in and around the village.

Thank you to all those concerned with the photography competition and the production of the calendar.

Diane Butcher

Shredded paper

Do you shred your private correspondence and then mix it with your kerbside paper collection? Research has discovered that a large majority of particles are lost in the sorting process when paper and cardboard go down the rollers in the processing facility. This is in turn swept up with the rubbish and wasted. It is therefore best to keep shredded paper separate, in its own kerbside plastic or paper recycling bag.



Shredded paper can also be re-used as pet-litter for smaller animals such as mice and hamsters (best mixed with conventional litter until the pet becomes used to it).

Shredded paper can also be used as packaging, or garden compost or mulch (as the latter, wet it first before covering with conventional mulch). Dyed and plastic-coated papers however should not be re-used in either way as some contain toxic materials.

Janet Lelliott

A note from your editor:

Lindsey Raven Emrich, who is a leading light in the Fingringhoe Green Group, as well as a village yoga teacher, tells me that the Mayne Veterinary Clinic, for which she works, received the *Green Veterinary Practice of the Year* award with Webinar vet. She herself won the *Green Veterinary Personality of the Year* award.

Congratulations, Lindsey!



EveryChildOnline is a charity based in Basildon which refurbishes PCs and Laptops and gives them to children who wouldn't normally have access to a device at home. Since their inception in 2021 the charity has recycled more than 10,000 devices which might otherwise have been dumped or gone into landfill. Check out their website <https://everychildonline.co.uk> or call 01268 544 074 if you have devices to contribute. The Rotary Club will be asked to collect from you at a time which is convenient to all concerned. EveryChildOnline would also obviously appreciate donations to enable them to carry on their excellent work.

Janet Lelliott

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!

7 April – 5 May – 2 June
7 July – 4 August – 1 September

Next litter pick: on Saturday 24 March

Meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am.

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!



The Trust held an open day on Sunday 4 February for local people to come and have a look around the two new apartments at the site in Church Road. It was also an opportunity for people to meet some of the Trustees. The open day was very

successful and there was a lot of interest from those looking to make a new start in the village, or who just wanted to have a look around. It was agreed by all that the apartments look amazing and the work was carried out to a very high standard throughout. Thanks to Andrew Davis for doing such a great job of the renovation and thanks to all those who came along on the day.

The Trustees and Friends are an enthusiastic group of volunteers, all living in the local area, who offer a wide range of skill sets and experience. We are actively looking for more Trustees and Friends who would like to get involved with the Trust. All are welcome to join and skills can range from practical things, such as DIY, gardening and painting, to fundraising for the Trust or setting up and running events or clubs in the courtyard, community room or community lounge.

If you would like to become part of the dedicated group of volunteers, as a Trustee or Friend, please contact chairperson.cgt@gmail.com or you can send a message via our Facebook page.

Or, if you would like information about the possibility of hiring The Courtyard, community room or community lounge, please email secretary.cgt@gmail.com

Kate Allsopp

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

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For all your internal and external design, painting and decorating requirements contact Chris Murphy on 07899 093796 for a no obligation estimate. Chris has over 40 years' experience both in commercial and private residence properties within Colchester and surrounding areas.

Come and Sing in the Choir!

The **Comrie Singers**, who were formed 15 years ago, are now rehearsing every other Monday evening in St Andrew's church (in term time only). I went along for a first session and although I do not read music I was able to follow what I should be doing!

They are a friendly bunch and I was warmly welcomed, and they very much want to recruit more local people. They sing a wide variety of music and you don't have to have done any singing in the past.

Rehearsals on: 4 & 18 March, 15 & 22 April

If anyone is interested, please come along to rehearsals, or email me at: wendyspinks070@btinternet.com

Wendy Spinks

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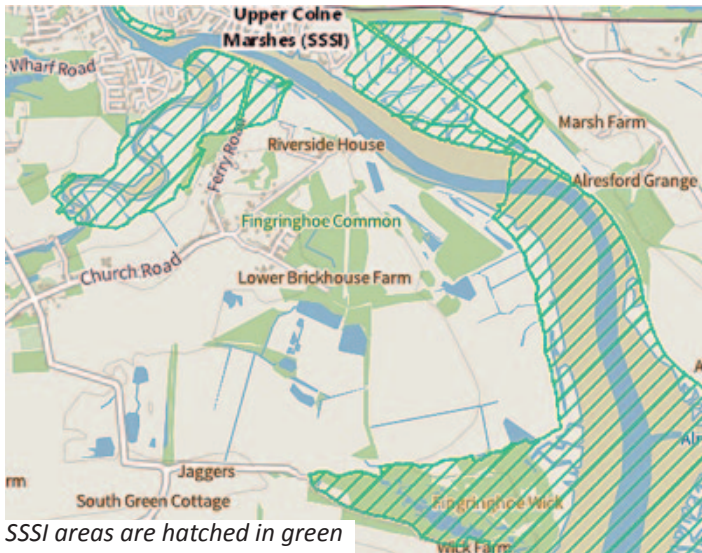
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Conservation Protection Areas in Fingringhoe,

'Nature' protections exist largely separate from the planning system. It would be relatively straightforward to get Fingringhoe's pond designated as a 'low level' Local Nature Reserve, but that wouldn't do anything to stop local development, except as a weighting factor in any debate. Among the 'middle level' of nature protections are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that cover Fingringhoe Wick and much of our surrounding marshes, including the tidal section of Roman River up to the Mill. This legislation requires developers and landowners within a surrounding risk area to assess whether their operations might have an adverse effect.



Geedon Marshes to our south, and the Colne Estuary to our east, have 'high level' triple international protections. Firstly, they are 'Ramsar' wetlands covered by an international convention for protecting wetlands because they store more carbon than forests, buffer the coast from storm surges, and provide nurseries and food for many species. Secondly, they are a 'Special Protection Area' (SPA) a designation relating to the estuary's importance to migrating birds. Thirdly, they are a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), part of a network of habitats across Europe, reflecting how migrating wildlife cross national borders. By having a coherent network, we all work together to stop species declining and disappearing. This network is called Natura 2000 – a big thing on the continent where species also walk and swim across country borders.



Any large development proposal has to pass a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) to deal with these high-level protections. For example, the MOD included an HRA in its application for development work at Fingringhoe Ranges. HRAs are also useful because ecological surveyors need to collate a lot of local information: the MOD's HRA reported the reduction of over-wintering wetland birds in the last five years, possibly because fewer arctic birds need to fly as far as Essex in winter, due to arctic winters slowly getting warmer. HRAs are not perfect; environmental damage is often insidious: for example, proposals that might harm fish numbers in the long term are difficult to assess, given that fry are too tiny to count, and they move, and they live in the sea that also moves!

Historically, these high level protections have also been difficult to update. For example, the saltmarsh creation scheme at Fingringhoe Wick was not added to the SAC/SPA when it was completed – it would have taken years for politicians across 28 countries to agree to this local tweak. Following Brexit, the UK left the Natura 2000 network. The EU SAC/SPA protection zones disappeared, but they have been transferred into new UK SAC/SPA equivalents in domestic law. It is noticeable that the wording of this law now heavily uses the phrase 'have regard to' and conservation groups are concerned that this phrasing could water-down post-Brexit nature protections because it no longer actually stops anyone damaging anything. Small word-changes in law can have huge impacts on local authorities, businesses and people. At the end of the day, wildlife doesn't earn a livelihood, pay taxes or vote. So it is up to us as the human residents of Fingringhoe to judge how we think our laws and rules should strike a balance between socio-economic growth and protecting nature.

Finally, conservation protection isn't always about *stopping* humans doing things in order to protect nature. Sometimes it is about encouraging people to *start* doing things. For example, several land managers in Fingringhoe receive Countryside Stewardship Payments. The principle behind this is public money for public good. Commonly, taxpayer money is given to farmers for management plans: examples include giving up some production land and managing it instead to support specific species, or maybe planting reeds along ditches to capture chemical run-off into our waterways.

For more information about the range of schemes and protections covering Fingringhoe, go to magic.defra.gov.uk and explore the map settings to see the huge range of schemes and designations covering our village.

Peter Morris

From St Andrew's Church

Is Solitude good for you?



I was thinking of the word solitude the other day and what it meant to me, spending time away from the stresses and strains of life, just for an hour or half an hour, with no-one in sight. Time to empty your mind, reflect on life. Think things out, let the ideas roam or let them out. A sense of time being away from the ordinary, the mundane, listening to the sounds around us, down by the beach listening to the waves and the gulls above or looking up and wondering about the destination of that plane in the sky.

Have you got a place just to have time for yourself, or maybe invite a friend from time to time, to use all your senses, breathe in the air and touch the different surfaces? There's a lot said about solitude, some think it's good for us and some think it's not so good for us, what do you think?

I found this quote by Virginia Woolf which sums it up for me. 'In Solitude we give passionate attention to our lives, to our memories, to the details around us'.

Revd Terry

Contact details on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Easter Lilies 2024



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 into the box labelled 'Flower Money' in the church or through my door:
1 The Dingle, Ballast Quay Road.

Judy Kimmance

Easter services at St Andrew's Fingringhoe

Holy Week 25 – 31 March

(British summer time begins clocks go forward)

Monday (25) at 6.30pm

Compline (a complementative service lasting 20/30 minutes)

Tuesday (26) at 6.30pm Compline

Wednesday (27) at 6.30pm Compline

Maundy Thursday (28) at 6.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday (29) at 2pm Reflective service

Easter Sunday (31) at 11.45am

Easter Holy Communion

Friends of St Andrew's Church

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13 March

at 7.30pm in the church

Non-member visitors are very welcome to attend.

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

We put on fundraising activities about twice a year, and our funds also grow through members' subscriptions (£20 individual or £30 family annually).



The paintings on the altar in St Andrew's church show the Nativity in the left panel, the Crucifixion in the centre (Christ on the cross, flanked by his mother Mary and John the Evangelist) and to the right, the resurrected Christ appearing to the three Marys.

The paintings were installed in 1920, in memory of Daniel Abbot Green of Fingringhoe Hall, who died in the First World War. The artist was Dora Curtis (1875-1922) who lived for a year with missionaries in China and during wartime worked in hospitals in Russia and France.

Funding News & Views

We have funds to print this issue of News & Views and the next one (June). After that, the piggy bank will be in need of replenishing, so if you can spare something, however little in this time of alarming increases in the cost of living, your editor would be very grateful.

If you would like to support *News & Views*, please send donations to the Editor (address below).

Cheques should be payable to 'Fingringhoe PCC' and clearly identified as contributions to *News & Views*.



Thank you!

At Ye Olde Albion, Rowhedge

Join us for this year's St Patrick's Day Celebration

with

Phoenix Rising



Sunday 17 March 2024
3pm to 6pm

sing along to acclaimed Celtic songs and airs

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!



Geedon marshes, photograph by Peter Morris



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