



NEWS & VIEWS

DECEMBER 2025



CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S

Sunday 7 December at 10am Thought for Sunday

Sunday 14 December at 9.15am Holy Communion

Friday 19 December at 7.30pm

Candlelit Carol Service (with mince pies & mulled wine)

Sunday 21 December

at 10am Family Service

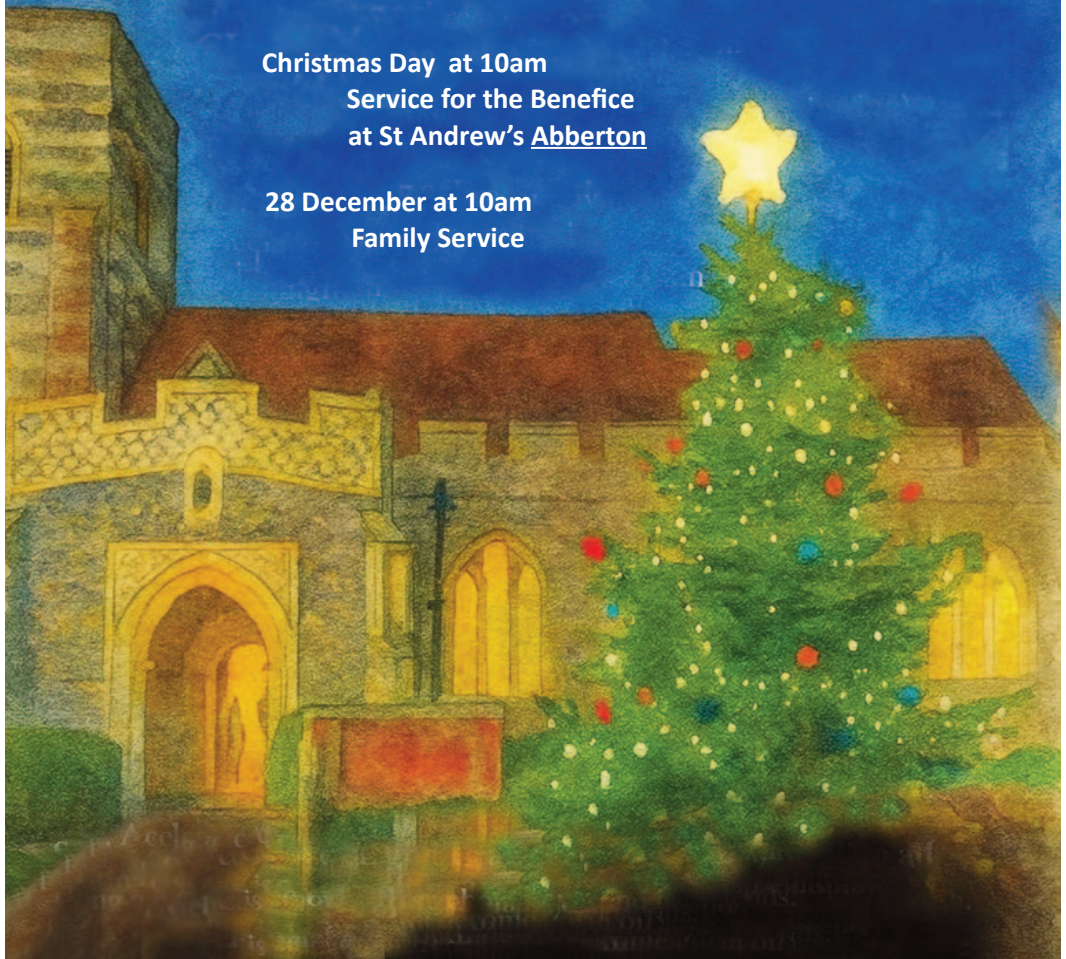
at 2pm Family makeup Christingle

at 4pm Dedication of 'Tree of Light'

Christmas Eve at 4pm Christingle
at 10pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day at 10am
Service for the Benefice
at St Andrew's Abberton

28 December at 10am
Family Service



Thank you for the support you have given to the church throughout the summer, when you supported the Cream Teas run by the Friends of St Andrew's or went to the first Local Art exhibition organised by the church and Church Green Trust. Not forgetting the Beacon Hill players with Colin Bellett In Concert at the beginning of November – all well-attended and raising much-needed funds for the upkeep of our beautiful St Andrew's church.

As we remember our families, friends and neighbours near and far this Christmas, may:

The joy of the angels
the eagerness
of the shepherds
the perseverance
of the wise men
the obedience
of Joseph and Mary
and the peace
of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.

Revd Terry

St Andrew's Tree of Light beams peace and goodwill to all. Lighting a candle is a powerful symbol of love and hope, light and warmth. The gesture takes on an extra-special significance when associated with the celebration or commemoration of landmark life events affecting our loved ones, whether they be family or friends. Sponsoring lights on the St Andrew's Christmas Tree in thanksgiving or remembrance has become an established custom since 2014.

To order your lights, please complete the form available in the church. The names of your dedicatees will be displayed in the porch over Christmas & New Year





Update from the Parish Council

Church Green/Pigs Foot Green In line with the maintenance programme, the two oak trees on Church Green and the oak tree on Pigs Foot Green have had the dead wood removed and the crowns raised to ensure they are safe, reduce the risk of disease and enhance the trees' appearance. A full tree survey will be carried out in Spring 2026. The drains have also recently been rodded by ECC, so the manhole cover on Church Green is no longer overflowing. They have more work to do but it should stop the ground around that area being so wet and boggy.

Recreation Ground The trees within the hedge line have also been trimmed back, again to enhance appearance. Unfortunately, the 'Keep Dogs on Leads' signs have been stolen from the fence and more have now been ordered. Just a reminder to all dog owners that there is a lot of open space in and around the village for dog walking and we just ask that dogs are kept on leads in the recreation ground so the playing fields are not fouled for the players and school children who use the pitches and the open space. Also, if you do walk your dogs on leads over the Recreation Ground, please remember to pick up after your dogs and put their waste in any of the bins provided.

Beacon plaque Cllr Henderson has kindly put the new plaque up and is in the process of cleaning up the one already there.



Historical Records Some of the old Parish Council records have been passed to the Fingringhoe Historical Recorders to look at and catalogue before being sent to Essex Records Office for safe-keeping.

Here is an extract from one of the books:

1937? *In anticipation of the coronation of King Edward VIII, after the death of King George V, Col. Furneaux at the Hall planted the oak tree on Pigs Foot Green opposite the Blacksmith's.*

1967 *January. After removing decayed branches on the largest oak near the pond on Church Green, the other large tree at the site of Connie Kent's cottage was removed and replaced by a new tree planted by Mrs Furneaux.*

1967 *April. Work commenced on the sewerage scheme. December 1968 Sewerage scheme completed.*

1968 *Church Green and Fingringhoe Common registered by R.D.C as Commons. Pigs Foot Green and Ferry Hard registered by Council as Commons*

Budget and Precept for 2026/27 At the October meeting the Council discussed the budget and precept for the coming year. I am pleased to advise that the precept will remain at £14,500 for 2026/27 (subject to Colchester City Council approval in the new year) with a shortfall of about £3,000 being met from reserves. The expenditure budget is estimated at £20,249, an increase of approximately 4.2%.

Local Plan updates See the links below to the Colchester City Council website.

[Colchester Local Plan](#) · [Colchester City Council Evidence base and supporting documents](#) · [Colchester City Council](#)

Council meetings and information We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm at the village hall. The June 2026 meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 (3rd Tuesday). A list of meeting dates will be on the website and noticeboards.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak during the public session. The agenda will be on the website and noticeboard a few days before each meeting.

The Website is regularly updated with information about the village. If you would like something added, please let the clerk know. Agendas and Minutes of the meeting are also published on the website.

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

Petra Palfreyman
Parish Clerk



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

GEEDON GALLERY AUTUMN EXHIBITION THEN & NOW

Open by appointment until December 15th

Next Exhibition March 28th– 12th April 2026

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

www.geedongallery.co.uk



John O'Connor (1913-2004)

Leo & Poppies

Get involved

JOIN OUR RESIDENTS' PANEL



How does the Residents' Panel help our city?

Get ready to share your views and input into a wide range of topics to help us shape our services.

What do we need from you? Desire to help us improve our city | Commitment to attend 4 meetings a year (virtual and in person) | To be an ambassador for what Colchester City Council does

IT'S QUICK AND EASY TO SIGN UP

Find out more: colchester.gov.uk/residents-panel or email residents.panel@colchester.gov.uk

 Scan me 

CCC invites residents to share their views on spending priorities as part of the annual budget consultation. Running until **8 December**, the consultation will help inform the draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year.



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

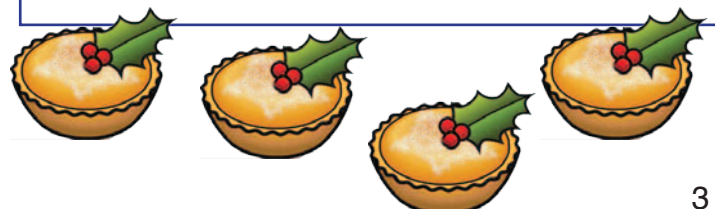
OPEN
8AM TO 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9AM TO 5PM SATURDAY
9AM-NOON SUNDAY

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

Entrance off Fingringhoe Road

07708 403292

www.lioncornercommunityshop.co.uk





Relaunch 2026

The Green Group could do with a few more members! Are you interested in the environment, want to meet new friends and be involved in the community?

Then we need you!

We have achieved many great things in the village and want this to continue. We had a successful litter pick in October – while we do these regularly, those pesky car litter-chuckers never disappoint. We've also been helping to tidy up the outdoor classroom throughout November.

We meet every two months (or more when events are planned) either at Church Green Trust or the social club.

We are a friendly group of all different ages!

For more information and to find out the next meeting, email: Fingringhoegreengroup@gmail.com

Lindsey Raven Emrich



results of the October litter-pick

Yoga with Linds

Every Thursday night during term time:

7.15-8.30pm

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

Starting from
29 September
2025

Recycling just got FLEXIBLE

New items accepted in Plastics Recycling!

**Flexible
Plastics**

Shopping Bags, Bread
Bags, Crisp Packets.

**Cartons &
Tetra Pak**

Juice/ Soup/ Milk
Containers.

**Full List
Online**

Still unsure? Check
the full listing online.

Put them in your clear plastic recycling bags and make sure items are clean and empty.

To find out more and view full list,
scan the QR code or visit us online:
Colchester.gov.uk/what-to-put-out

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!

The next First Sundays are:

4 January | February | March 2026



News from the Women's Institute **WI**

September was a busy month for our WI.

As well as our monthly meeting we had two outings organized by Essex Federation of WIs. On 16 September we enjoyed free entry to Audley End House in celebration of 110 years of WI's: the day was bright and sunny, if a bit chilly and eight of our members went on this. We started off the day with a look around the kitchen gardens: the fruit trees were all laden with every type of apple, pear, quinces and even some medlars. There was also a trial of Zinnia flowers in one bed and this looked stunning, like a million little jewels. We then toured several rooms of the house, which is stuffed full of paintings and treasures and includes a huge library with a grand piano. The nursery at the top of the house was fascinating and full of tales of the children that once occupied it. It was a great day and our thanks go to English Heritage for giving us this day out.

At the end of September, on the same day as the English Roses won the rugby world cup, we had a guided walk in London, so the train going to London was quite busy with everyone in high spirits. The walk was around the square mile that makes up the actual city, starting at the monument, where we were told many tales of the Great Fire. We walked around Leadenhall market and saw the shop that was the leaky cauldron in the Harry Potter movies and many other sights, including the first coffee shop in London and the Bank of England. Our walk ended at the Guildhall, one of the few buildings in the city that survived both the Great Fire and the Blitz; the art gallery there is full of both modern and traditional art. We finished the day with a nice late lunch before boarding the train home – tired but happy.

Our speaker for September was Chris Jones, on his work as a bailiff. Chris is new to public speaking so was a little nervous but he gave a good talk followed by a lively questions-and-answers session.

In October we were fortunate enough to have Mary Newton as a speaker. Mary was a forensic scientist for her whole career and worked on many high profile cases; she is an excellent speaker and we hope to get her back in the future to give one of her other talks.

Our darts team have again entered the Federation of Essex WI's darts tournament this season, their first match was away to St Osyth when Fingringhoe won 4-1. In December we have a Christmas party planned for our members and in March next year we will have another day in London (see the panel below).

Very good wishes for the Christmas season from the WI.

Jill Bellinger 07947495264

WI London Walk on 21 March 2026

Fingringhoe WI has arranged a walk in London, with Gary Egerton, an experienced tour guide well-known to our group. The subject is *Bishops and Brothels* in the Southwark area. As with previous walks, this one will last for about three hours; it starts at Liverpool Street Station at 10am and the cost will be around £20. Look out for Greater Anglia's 'Hare Fare' offers to reduce the cost of rail travel.

If you would like to come please let me know. Everyone is welcome: friends, family, even husbands! Please contact Jackie Gibby kg_and_guv@yahoo.com to register your interest.



Meet a group of friendly animals who live in Essex and with the help of Essex Year of Opportunity will find their dream jobs this winter. Complete challenges on your own sheet and collect stickers as you go. Complete the tasks and have a chance to enter our amazing prize draw!

Sign up at your local Essex library

from Saturday 19 January to Sunday 22 February

Colchester Library reopening



Colchester Library will reopen on Monday 1 December, the latest in our planned programme of library improvements and refurbishments.

There are fresh, new-look spaces, an exciting new Children's Imagination and Literacy Centre, and more comfortable and commodious offices for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news>



Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Excitement is building at school as we prepare for the special Christmas season, a particularly meaningful time for us at Fingringhoe as a Church of England school. In classrooms, our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children have been learning about the story of Christmas and reflecting on why this season holds such importance for Christians around the world.

Meanwhile, our Key Stage 2 pupils are busy rehearsing for a very special carol concert which they will be performing for our neighbours at Aveley Lodge. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and we are looking forward to a lovely morning of Christmas carols.

We are incredibly fortunate to have an active and supportive PTA at Fingringhoe. They are currently busy organising a wonderful Christmas fete to be held in the church on Friday 5 December from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. We warmly invite all members of our community to come along – join us for festive fun and help us celebrate this joyful season together!

With warm wishes, **Mrs H. Coyle**

FINGRINGHOE SCHOOL PTA
Christmas Fayre

ST ANDREWS CHURCH, CHURCH ROAD
FINGRINGHOE, CO5 7BN

FRIDAY **05** 3.30PM - 6.30PM
DECEMBER

ENTRY 50P
SANTA'S GROTTO £5 PER CHILD
INC PRESENT

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR AN EVENING OF FUN,
FRIENDS AND FESTIVE CHEER

MEGA RAFFLE WITH £100 VOUCHER FROM THE ANCHOR
ROWHEDGE, OUR AMAZING HAMPERS INC: MOVIE NIGHT,
CLEAN FREAK, CHRISTMAS GOODIES AND MANY MORE
PRIZES

CRAFTING WITH MRS CLAUS / REFRESHMENTS / GAMES /
CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA AND MUCH MORE

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE FINALE AT APPROX 6PM WITH
CHRISTMAS CAROLS BEING PLAYED BY A LOCAL TALENTED
ORGANIST

TA UK
100 YEARS JOHN FOWLERS

ORGANISED BY FINGRINGHOE SCHOOL PTA
SPONSORED BY:
ADVERTISING - THE AGENCY UK - DANIEL LITTLE
SANTA - JOHN FOWLERS SOLICITORS



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.

We put on fundraising activities each year, such as concerts, cream teas and a popular quiz night. Our funds also grow steadily through annual members' subscriptions (£20 individual or £30 family).

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: Michael Parmenter (Chair)

michaelparmenter@googlemail.com



Fingringhoe Ted

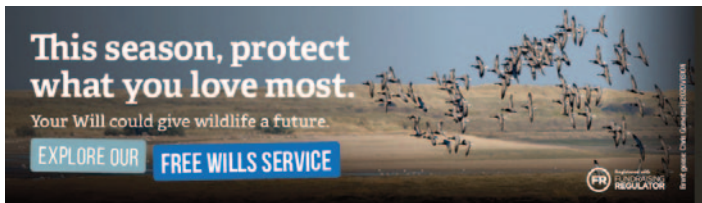
As you will be aware, Ted took up residence on a Bench in Fingringhoe Village during Covid. By popular demand he has remained there for over 5 years. As he was becoming a little tatty this year I was going to remove him but I received a huge response suggesting that people would be willing to donate to having him fixed, re-stuffed and a good clean at the local launderette. A number of his costumes have now seen better days but thanks to the very generous support of village residents I have been able to repair and clean him up as well as update many of his outfits this year.

I have been overwhelmed with your kindness and Ted has been looking very smart thanks to you all. I have put a list of his costs this year, and the donations received, in the Village Post Office, so you can see what your generosity has paid for.

A HUGE THANK YOU
to you all.

Carole Nickelson





Fingringhoe Wick Nature Discovery Park



As the days grow shorter and the year draws to an end it is time to reflect on the year that has passed. Here at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Discovery Centre we have had a wonderful year and have enjoyed welcoming visitors from near and far to our beautiful Reserve. February marked the start of our Badger Evenings with guests able to view up to six badgers at a time with our dedicated team of badger guides. In spring we welcomed the return of our nightingales and were proud to introduce our guests to these amazing, elusive birds on our Nightingale Walks. At the same time those lucky guests with a good ear were treated to the purring of turtle doves hidden in the scrub.



photo: Diane Butcher

Although our spring and summer visitors have left there is still plenty to see and explore here at the Wick. When looking out over the river you can see impressive flocks of lapwing, avocet, knot and curlew. Whilst in the woodland you may be greeted by the sounds of the Cettis warbler. The saltmarsh remains the domain of the majestic marsh harrier and on occasion the hen harrier. As you wander around the reserve you may see our group of brilliant volunteers working hard to clear paths and scrub ready to welcome visitors in the new year.

In the Visitor Centre both staff and volunteers are busy preparing for the upcoming festive season. The tree is soon to go up and the log burner is on ready to welcome guests in from the cold. If you are wanting to get into the festive spirit there is still time to book onto our straw craft workshop where you can learn how to make your own Christmas tree decorations. Or maybe you might want to try your hand at making your own Christmas wreath in our wreath-making workshop. For those of you yet to finish your Christmas shopping we are holding a Christmas shopping day: on 3 December we are offering 20% off in the shop and 10% off our wonderful selection of books and optics.

Looking forward to the new year we are planning some wonderful events, so please keep an eye on our website. Until then look after each other and remember those that may be alone this Christmas or might need some extra support.

**From everyone here at Fingringhoe Wick:
have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.**

Claire Curran, Assistant Centre Manager



Upcoming events at the Reserve:

- Straw craft workshop 2 December
- Christmas shopping day 3 December
- Knit and Natter 2nd Saturday of the month
- Winter Bird Watching 17 January



Wetlands area of the Reserve
photo: Diane Butcher

Fingringhoe Interior & Exterior Painter & Decorator

Trustworthy, reliable and meticulous, with over 35 years experience, working in both residential and commercial properties. No job too big or too small. Why not spruce up a room for Christmas or the New Year?



Call Chris on 07899 093796
for a free estimate.



Fingringhoe Classic Car Show 2026

You may have heard we are planning a classic car show on **13 June 2026**. The term 'classic car' will be deployed quite loosely and can include modern classic, motor bikes or any other type of interesting vehicle. We thought it would be a great opportunity to show all the fantastic cars that are being lovingly looked after in garages throughout the village.

There will be an opportunity for groups and organisations that operate in Fingringhoe to have a table or stall there to showcase what they do in the community. Our current planning assumption is that most of the cars will be centred around the Social Club and Village Hall and we will be using the hall to house any stalls or displays.

This is still very much at the planning stage. However, we are excited about creating an opportunity for the residents of Fingringhoe to get together and talk cars. Keep an eye on the village Facebook page, the village notice boards and future editions of this paper for updates and the opportunity to register your vehicle. We would love to hear from any club, group or organisation that would like to have a stall or table at the event.

While we don't expect any huge costs in doing this there will be some overheads in putting the show on and we'd love to hear from anyone, or any organisation, willing to offer any form of sponsorship.

Contacts:

Marjorie Smith - marjnsmith@hotmail.co.uk

Gav Matthias - gavmatt2@sky.com

Why not Join Something in 2026?

A recent local focus-group discussion of 'resilience' agreed that a sense of community is an important component of contented lives. Also that community in our village is much enhanced by the activities of various volunteer groups.

It was also agreed that most of these groups would function better if they had more members, making it possible for their work to be shared out more widely. This need was reflected this year in the appearance in each issue of *News & Views* of appeals for more members: from the Green Group, the Historical Recorders, Church Green Trust, the Friends of St Andrew's and the Women's Institute.

So why not think about joining in somewhere?

Volunteers seldom have to be expert at anything, nor need they commit a great deal of their time – and they usually find that being part of a group doing something of use to the community is very enjoyable!

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.



The Nativity by Bernardo Zenale, c. 1500



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 18 February 2026** to: lynrodley@btinternet.com or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX