



## Update from the Parish Council

### New Village Sign on Fingringhoe Road

I hope that by the time you read this you will all have seen the new stone village sign. This has taken many months to source, create and install and we hope that you will agree that it's a fitting sign for the village. Hopefully it cannot be stolen and shipped across the Atlantic. The material is Purbeck Stone, sourced from a quarry in Dorset and transported to Fingringhoe where it was carefully removed from the lorry by Gerald Ketley and his tractor and stored at Picketts Farm until it could be installed. Many thanks to our Ward Councillors Robert Davidson and Carl Powling for contributing £700 towards the costs; also sincere thanks to local residents David Monks, Andrew Ketley and Gerald Ketley for their knowledge, expertise and time in building the setting, siting the stone and making this possible.

**Recreation Ground** In line with the regular inspections carried out at the play area and recreation ground, we have ordered more play bark to bring the depth of the bark up to the compliant depth. This will be installed as soon as the weather permits. The 'Keep Dogs on Leads' signs that were recently stolen have now been replaced.

**John Brunning Walk** Unfortunately, the second set of 'No Cycling' signs that we installed were destroyed within a few days of them being put up. We had hoped that by keeping cyclists off a designated foot path the surface would be kept reasonably well in the wet weather, to keep this valuable route easily passable.

**Church Green** Further thanks to ECC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CCC Cllr Martin Parsons for grants towards some improvements for Church Green. We will be installing a new, bigger bin at the top near the railings and cleaning up the seats and picnic bench. Quotes for the boardwalk are still in progress which is taking longer than we first hoped.

**VAS (vehicle activated speed sign)** I first reported the VAS in Chapel Road on 25 February 2025! Since then, I have been told it was fixed twice and the latest communication received was that it triggers at 35mph (not 30mph). However, several reliable 'testers' have advised me this is not the case, and I have reported it once again. Third time lucky!

**Defibrillator** The clerk carries out a regular check of the defibrillator at the village hall and has just renewed the paediatric pads held in there. If you see that the defibrillator needs any attention or has been removed, please let the clerk know as soon as possible.

**Council meetings and information** We usually meet on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at 7pm at the village hall. However, this year the May meeting will be on Tuesday 19 May (3rd Tuesday) and the June one will be on Tuesday 16 June (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.

Petra Palfreyman, Parish Clerk



**New addresses** To comply with our audit regulations, all Council email and website addresses have moved to gov.uk addresses. The new addresses, with immediate effect are: website <https://fingringhoe-pc.gov.uk/> email: [clerk@fingringhoe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@fingringhoe-pc.gov.uk)

## A word from the editor:

The reason for the splendid new Purbeck Stone sign at the entrance to the village is that previous signs, less robust, have repeatedly been vandalised or stolen. We have the new sign thanks to the creative thinking, perseverance and sheer hard work of the PC and those who helped them. Let's hope the vandals will leave it alone.



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

Since the last time of writing Christmas has come and gone and along with it the ever popular Church Carol service at which several of our members did readings.

Our speaker in January was changed at the last minute and one of our own members, Maggie, stepped in to talk to us about autism in women. At the end of January a large group of us visited the Mercury to watch the Colchester Operatic production of *Guys and Dolls*. It was a wonderful show, the singing and dancing were all amazing.

In February we had a members meeting at which the theme was 'every picture tells a story'. Members brought along photos or pictures with a story behind them. There was a newspaper cutting of when several Rowhedge residents swam across the river to Wivenhoe to deliver their prescription requests in protest at the threatened closure of our pharmacy; thank goodness we won that one. There were also some childhood photographs, one of a member in a beautifully hand-knitted cardigan made by her mum. (Who remembers unravelling old cardigans to reknit the wool? New wool came in skeins and as children we had to hold our arms out to hold the skein so Mum could wind it into a ball). Another member's school class photograph showed her sitting next to her future husband. Several members brought along their parents' wedding photos with interesting stories and one had kept the decorations off the top of the wedding cake. The wedding was in 1938!

To round off our meeting in February and as the Winter Olympics were taking place in Italy, we had an Italian-themed quiz and finished off the evening with our version of a snowball fight: United Kingdom beat Italy 51 to 45 at this, it was great fun. Also in February some of us visited Marks Hall to see the snowdrops amongst the woodland, such a lovely sight. The rain had stopped but everywhere was pretty muddy, however we still had a great walk, the winter trees were stunning, particularly the silver birches with their bright white trunks. We rounded off the visit with a delicious lunch in the on-site restaurant.

Our walking group has been out and about, taking in the local footpaths despite the weather; we even braved the muddy footpath to Rowhedge in January! The darts team are performing well in the Essex Federation Womens' Institute tournament, having won four out of five of their matches so far.

In March we are having a speaker coming to talk to us about Waitrose, after which we are having a mystery auction to try and raise a few pounds for St Helena Hospice. In April our speaker will be Lucy Lewis, the first woman bomb disposal expert.

If you would like to visit us and see if our WI is for you, we meet on the second Tuesday of each month 7.30pm in the village hall. The first visit is free. A warm welcome awaits you.

**Jill Bellinger**



**Zélie Jopling 1938 – 2025**

Zélie lived at South Green Farmhouse for 55 years and founded the Roman River Festival. She had an idyllic early childhood on Dartmoor where the family had been evacuated. Her first job was at Methuen publishers, where aged 18 her attention to detail and accuracy stood her in good

stead as she typed out plays by Pinter, Brecht and many more. A spell at the BBC working for George Macbeth, where she read poems live on radio, in the intervals of concerts, was followed by a job she loved; being part of the Queen Mother’s staff at Clarence House.

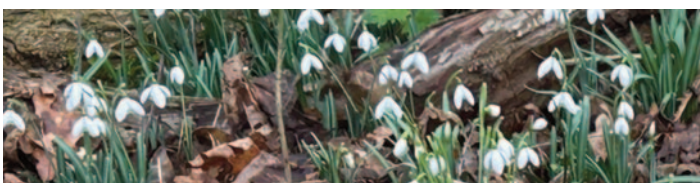
She dedicated a large part of her life to bringing up three children, and then aged 45 took French O level, A level, and a degree at Essex University. For her year abroad as part of the degree, a friend showed her an ad in a french magazine called '69', which refers to the administrative district of Lyon. She spent a year with Madame Balaillé, meeting and forming a deep and long-lasting friendship with the family.

After teacher-training in Cambridge, she taught French at a comprehensive school in Ipswich for ten years. Her love of French continued her whole life, and she amassed a wall full of French books in her study.

Mum talked about four great things in her life here in Fingringhoe. Firstly opening the garden to visitors for charity every year, which took months of preparation and indeed years of love and knowledge. Second, painting, a daily meditative and calming practice for her. Thirdly music, starting with organising music days for children and then nurturing the Roman River Festival. Last and maybe most importantly; swimming, and the great friends she made through that.

Mum particularly wanted Dad to be remembered at her service: he died at the end of 2019 in Ireland, and Covid prevented us gathering together to celebrate his life. He was a huge influence on all our lives, teaching the value of independent thinking. While a barrister at Lincoln’s Inn, he founded the Church Green Trust in Fingringhoe and the Colchester Youth Chamber Orchestra. He realised before most the dangers in the way we are treating our planet and retired aged 52 to dedicate himself to environmental campaigning.

**Orlando Jopling**



In November last year, Church Green Trust enjoyed a fun wreath-making event: a day when participants learned new skills, made new friends and crafted fabulous wreaths. The primary objective of the Trust is to provide accommodation and related amenities to people connected to Fingringhoe, and also to support the Arts. This was the inspiration for the wreath-making workshop. Our intention was to run the event in the courtyard beneath the shelter of the open barns, with refreshments in the post office rooms, but high winds and rain on the day made this impossible. Jenny and the Rev. Terry came to the rescue and offered us the sanctuary of St Andrews Church, for which we were sincerely thankful.

Many materials used for this workshop were foraged from villagers’ gardens and bags full of foliage were collected in advance. Many thanks to Jenny and Clemency for opening their gardens, and to Sarah and Clemency for their hard work with the secateurs. Tea, cake and mulled wine were a welcome treat throughout the day. Thank you to all who helped to make the day happen and especially to Sarah, Clemency and Jacinda, without whom this event would not have been possible. Feedback was unanimously in favour of repeating the event this year and we are also exploring opportunities to use the courtyard in the coming year, so watch this space!



The Trust would love to have more volunteers to help, regardless of how much time as they can offer, whether creatively or practically. If interested, please contact Vince McNaugh on 07749930779 We look forward to hearing from you.

**Clare Kelly**





The **Fingringhoe Classic Car Show** is scheduled to take place in the village on **Saturday 13 June 2026** between 10am and 2pm. It will be held in the car parks of the Village Hall and The Whalebone. Entry numbers will be limited so get your applications in early! Please plan for cars to remain throughout the event. It would be amazing to have a good turnout of all sorts of interesting cars; however, as space is obviously tight, it is essential that you pre-register your car and have confirmation of your place prior to arriving. There will be no charge for entry but there will be donation buckets around the event, and we plan to donate all proceeds to the local church, St Andrew's.

To secure a place please email [marjnsmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marjnsmith@hotmail.co.uk) with the following information:

**your name, village/town of residence**

**email address, mobile phone number**

**the make, model, year & registration number of your car**

Without this we will be unable to guarantee a place for you on the day. We would also very much like to hear from any organisation or group in the village who would like to have a table in the Village Hall on the day to advertise what they do or encourage new membership. Please email:

[marjnsmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marjnsmith@hotmail.co.uk) or Gav at [gavmatt2@sky.com](mailto:gavmatt2@sky.com)

with details of your organisation to book a place. Becky Scott plans to run a BBQ, at the Fingringhoe Social Club, selling lovely hot food. We are making every effort to make this an enjoyable village event. We are aware that parking will be limited so we encourage locals to come on foot. There will be signage and volunteers around on the day to encourage those not attending to slow down and travel with extra care through the village. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

**Marjorie Smith**



## Great British Spring Clean

**on Sunday 29 March**

Meet at the village hall car park at 10am  
Equipment provided – first come first served.

Gloves recommended. Picking at own risk.

All welcome. WE NEED YOU!

## Calling all volunteer groups in Fingringhoe!

A note headed 'Why not Join Something in 2026' appeared in the December issue of *Fingringhoe News & Views*, prompted by a local focus-group discussion of 'resilience', which agreed that a sense of community is much enhanced by the activities of volunteer groups. The discussion also agreed that most of the groups in our village would function better if they had more members, making it possible for their work to be shared out more widely.

This is an important issue, so we plan is to use a page of the June *News & Views* to list the volunteer groups of Fingringhoe, with brief information about them. Some groups are registered charities, others are not – we want to hear about all of them.

So please send a few lines about your group – what you do, what skills are needed, how much time is required for volunteering with you, and so on. (See the back cover for the contact email address.)

**We would particularly like to hear from groups that do not usually send items to News & Views.**

# GEEDON GALLERY 25th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

PART 1

**March 28 – April 12 2026**

*Open by appointment until May 15*

Geedon Gallery, Jagers, Fingringhoe  
Colchester, Essex CO5 7DN  
01206 729 334 / 728 587 / 07901 918 046  
email [jataber@aol.com](mailto:jataber@aol.com)

[www.geedongallery.co.uk](http://www.geedongallery.co.uk)



*Olwen Jones RWS RE*

*Fernery with Jug*



could be business partners. She had run a gallery in Tollhurst D'Arcy and was thrilled to be back in the gallery business. We formed an amalgamation of both her artists and those who came from the New Grafton Gallery, members of the Royal Academy, New English Arts Club, Royal Society of British Artists and Pastel Society. We were also fortunate in having prestigious artists like Charles Bartlett and Olwen Jones living in Fingringhoe. And that is how the Geedon Gallery came into being, taking its name from the Geedon Creek, which it overlooks.

**Jacqueline Taber**



## Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

This term has been an exceptionally lively one at school, with pupils enjoying a rich programme of trips and hands-on learning beyond the classroom. Children stepped back in time during an immersive Victorian experience at Braintree Museum, explored local history at the magnificent Colchester Castle, and experienced contemporary art at Firstsite.

Back at school, we introduced a new programme of swimming lessons to broaden our curriculum offer. Pupils also took part in a series of inspiring art and drama

workshops led by the very talented Darren from Ignition Arts, as well as a ten-week course of ukulele lessons that proved hugely popular.

The term culminated in a spectacular full-day workshop at the Mercury Theatre, where some of our pupils worked with trained musicians to become a 'Choir in a Day.' They enjoyed a variety of workshops before taking to the stage for an evening performance in front of a packed audience – an absolutely amazing experience for everyone involved.

These extra opportunities enrich and extend our curriculum at Fingringhoe in meaningful ways, helping our pupils grow in confidence, curiosity, and creativity.

**Mrs H. Coyle, Headteacher**



Photograph by Diane Butcher

As we head into March here at Fingringhoe Wick we look forward to the arrival of spring after what seems to have been a long, wet winter. Our hibernating friends begin to emerge and we await the imminent arrival of our nightingales and turtle doves after their long journey from West Africa. With the arrival of these beautiful birds we begin our Nightingale Walks, welcoming people from all across the country. As the evenings grow longer we resume our badger-watching evenings and we wait curiously to see who and how many will emerge night after night. With this in mind we would like to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers who give up their precious time to lead these walks and evenings, maintain the Reserve and keep the centre open to guests, always with a smile and a dedication that makes everyone within the Essex Wildlife trust extremely proud.

Behind the scenes our artists are busy running courses and workshops, passing on their skills and knowledge. Their selflessness is something to admire and their contribution to the Essex Wildlife Trust and in particular Fingringhoe Wick is always much appreciated. All our artists love to inspire and teach others – so please have a look to see if any of our upcoming workshops interest you. Beginners or improvers are all welcome.

If you would like to learn more about the wildlife that inhabits the Wick why not sign on to one of our ID workshops with our expert Liz, who can teach you how to identify birds of all kinds (and later in the year, butterflies and dragonflies). New to birding or seasoned pro, there is always something more to learn.



Last but by all means not least, over the years the support of the Fingringhoe community has not gone unnoticed. Every book, coffee and cake you buy makes a huge difference to the running of the Reserve. So this spring when visiting, be sure to take time to stop and admire the emerging fox-gloves, daffodils and hedgerows beginning to display their array of blossoms. As you do so, reflect on the notion that you have all contributed to making Fingringhoe Wick a place of not only wonder but also of learning, peace and friendship. From everyone here at Fingringhoe Wick thank you for all your support and kindness.

**Claire Curran**

#### Upcoming courses and workshops

Wednesday watercolour sessions, fortnightly 10am–1pm, £25 per person.

#### March

- 14 Water colours: March Hares & Spring Meadows 10am–1.30pm £28 equipment supplied.
- 20 Raptor ID Workshop 9.30–12.30am
- 22 Enamel Workshop 10.30–1.30pm £75 per person
- 31 Easter Felting 10.30–12.30 £35 per person  
Other felting courses available see FB or the website

#### April

- 11 & 15 Birdsong ID Workshop 9.30–12.30 £15 per person
- 24– Guided Nightingale Walks: online booking, see the website for dates

#### May

- 2 Spring Birdwatching Day Workshop 9.30–3.30pm £30 per person
- 9 Dawn Chorus 4.30–8am £25 per person including food
- 10 Silver Clay workshop 10–2.30pm £95 per person including equipment
- 30 Botanical Plaster Casting 10.30–3.30pm £75 per person, including equipment

## Services at St Andrew's Fingringhoe

### Sundays

March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am Café Church  
8<sup>th</sup> at 9.15am Holy Communion  
15<sup>th</sup> at 9.15am Holy Communion,  
Lent for Mothering Sunday  
22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am Family Service, Arts & Craft

### Holy Week

30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm Compline Reflective service  
31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm Compline Reflective service  
1<sup>st</sup> April at 6.30pm Compline Reflective service  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 6.30pm Maundy Thursday,  
Benefice Agape meal  
3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2-3pm Good Friday Reflection  
5<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm Easter Sunday Holy Communion

### Sundays

April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am Café Church  
19<sup>th</sup> at 9.15am Holy Communion  
26<sup>th</sup> at 10am Family Service

## From St Andrew's Church



Spring is in the air, snowdrops are beginning to appear, lighter mornings, seasons changing, maybe not as how we remember them but still a wonderful time. St Andrew's church is **open every Saturday 10am till 4pm**, so please pop in and have a look, write a comment in the visitors' book. On the first Tuesday of the month we have Coffee & Co, so please drop in for a coffee, cake and a chat anytime between 2pm-4pm.

St Andrew's church had its Quinquennial (5-yearly) structural inspection in August and received the report in September, with detailed inspection grades for repairs – A, B, C and so on. 'A' repairs are to be carried out within 12 months. The PCC and the Friends of St Andrew's fund-raise for the repairs, so we will keep you updated. I would like to ask if there is anyone within the community who has expertise in applying for grants and who would be willing to volunteer their services to help with the fund-raising for the repairs.

Rev. Terry



Christmas now seems rather a long time ago, but the children may remember having a very good time making christingles in St Andrew's.

## Easter Lilies 2026

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 Judy Kimmance's door:  
1 The Dingle, Ballast Quay Road.



**LET'S Gather**  
**FAMILY CHURCH**

St Andrew's Church, Fingringhoe  
**4th Sunday of every month**  
**10-11.30ish**  
**Inclusive, family fun for all ages**

A short bible theme intro,  
then songs, crafts, tea and biscuits

**Bring your children, grand children  
and well behaved pets!**

## Colchester Foodbank Collection Point

**There is a collection box  
in the porch of St Andrew's Church, Fingringhoe**

Providing emergency food and practical support  
for people left without enough money to live on.

Please donate *in-date, non-perishable*  
foods and toiletries



### Shopping list

tinned meat/fish  
tinned veg/fruit  
cooking sauces  
coffee/tea  
UHT or powdered milk  
cereals  
long life fruit juice  
tinned pudding  
jam  
toiletries

[Colchester.foodbank.org.uk](http://Colchester.foodbank.org.uk)  
01206 621998



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**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](http://www.lioncornercommunityshop.co.uk)

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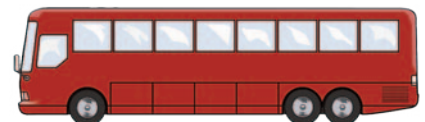
Clear out gutters, clean soffits  
& fascias, conservatories,  
including the roof.  
Call Steve on 07742 450381  
for a quotation

### Please use the bus!

There is a 174 or 175 every hour during the daytime,  
making 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!



Please send contributions for the next *News & Views* to Lyn Rodley (editor) **no later than 18 May 2025**  
to: [lynrodley@btinternet.com](mailto:lynrodley@btinternet.com) or hard copy to Lord Nelson House, Ferry Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BX