

PARISH NEWS:
Winter 2026

Dear Frating Resident,
Welcome to the Winter 2026 edition of the Frating Parish Council Newsletter.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the months to come, we are pleased to share the latest news and updates affecting our village and community. This edition highlights recent developments, local initiatives and information that we hope residents will find useful and informative.

On behalf of Frating Parish Council, I would like to extend our warmest seasonal greetings to all residents and wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.
Cllr Terry Cuthbert, Chairman.

Fireworks
Many of us enjoy celebrating the New Year with fireworks, but they can cause distress to pets, wildlife and some residents.

Please be considerate by letting neighbours know in advance, choosing low-noise fireworks where possible, keeping displays short and at reasonable times and following safety guidance.

A little consideration goes a long way in helping everyone enjoy celebrations while keeping our community safe and comfortable.

Changes to UK Landline Services – did you know?
The UK's traditional landline telephone network is being replaced with a new digital system. Whilst most households will experience little difference, there are concerns that some residents might not be able to make emergency calls during a power cut if they rely solely on a digital landline.

Unlike traditional landlines, digital phone services require electricity and a broadband connection to operate. Residents who depend on a landline, use telecare alarms, have poor mobile phone coverage, or do not own a mobile phone are encouraged to contact their telephone provider to discuss the support available before the switchover takes place.
The national switchover is expected to be completed by **January 2027**.

Remembering Leo Francis O'Hagan – A Remarkable Act of Courage
Leo Francis O'Hagan was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal (later exchanged for the George Medal) for outstanding bravery following a major explosion at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, in January 1940.

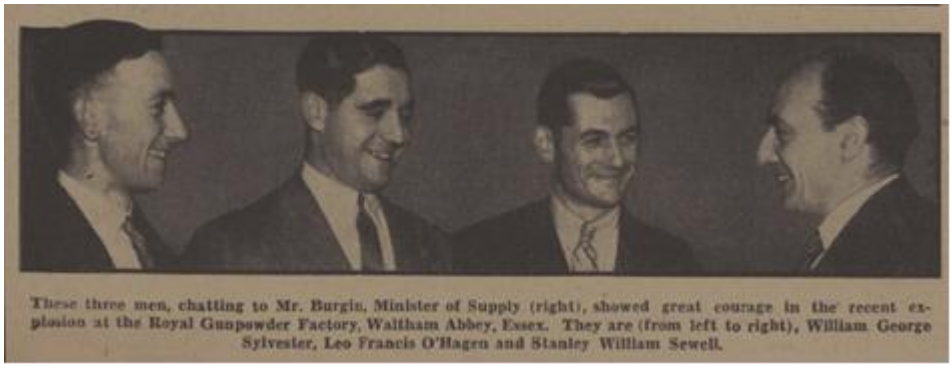
Alongside two colleagues, O'Hagan remained at his post for two hours despite the danger of further explosions, helping to prevent additional loss of life. During the Second World War, he also served in the Royal Navy, including work supporting the PLUTO fuel pipeline operations after D-Day.

Later in life, O'Hagan worked as a special constable, barber, shopkeeper and university porter before settling in the Tendring area, where he eventually died in Frating.

Frating Parish Council would like to honour Leo O'Hagan's connection to our community and ensure his courage is properly remembered.

Can You Help to Complete His Story? We are seeking local knowledge to help fill in the gaps:

- **Where did he live during his time in the Tendring District?**
- **Do any residents remember him personally?**
- **Did he live at the mobile home park or at the caravan site near the Tally Ho garage?**
- **Does anyone have photographs or memorabilia relating to him?**
- **Were any memorials or tributes ever made in his honour?**



These three men, chatting to Mr. Burgin, Minister of Supply (right), showed great courage in the recent explosion at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, Essex. They are (from left to right), William George Sylvester, Leo Francis O'Hagen and Stanley William Sewell.

Please contact the Clerk if you have any information.

Carols & Christingle Service at St Mary Magdalen Church, Thorrington
Everyone is warmly invited to the service on **Sunday 13 December 2026 at 3.00 pm**. Seasonal refreshments will be served after the service, providing an opportunity to meet friends and neighbours.

Frating Memorial Hall
Want to know how to book the Hall or see what's coming up? Just head over to the Memorial Hall page on the Frating Parish Council website. It's the easiest way to stay in the loop with all the latest events and hire information.

The next Frating Parish Council Meetings will be held on:

Monday, 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall on **7th December, 1st February 2027; 1st March 2027**

If you would like to suggest an article for future editions of the newsletter, please contact the Clerk on clerk@fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.fratingparishcouncil.gov.uk