

Foulness Island

November 2019

It is staggering to read of the numbers of War Memorials, especially the wooden ones from the First World War, that are ending up being sold in an antiques market because no-one was caring for them any more. They are apparently turning up in private homes as desirable decorations, to the loss of their local community. It just goes to show that even this sort of Remembrance, won with such cost of human life, fades as the years go by, and recorded sacrifice passes into oblivion.

On Foulness, thankfully, the War Memorial and the War Graves in the churchyard have been beautifully cared for and especial thanks should go to those who have taken that caring under its wing. Other memorials like gravestones are looked after, too. When the caring stops, it's surprising how quickly the remembrance goes.

How quickly we become deskilled! Many people remember in their past belonging to the life of the Church – Sunday School or singing in the choir or whatever. When that activity ceases, the remembering begins to fade; the memorials and life of the past simply cease to have any effect.

In this month there is a particular day to remember. However little we may know of the previous generations in our families, we all have cause to be thankful for someone's sacrifice.

Mrs Eva Doris Burroughs

It is with sadness that we note the recent death of Mrs Doris Burroughs, formerly of Rugwood Farm, at the age of 102.

Doris was the wife of Mr Frank Burroughs, whom she married in 1946. They had four children, Valerie, John, and twins Martin and Peter.

Having come from working in a large London office with lots of people around her, Doris found life on Foulness very different and the first winter was hard – Foulness did not have electricity and it was very cold.

Later, with her sister-in-law Kathleen, she began a branch of the Women's Institute. She was a Parish Councillor, for a while was Treasurer of the PCC and a Governor of Great Wakering and Foulness School. Doris was an active protester against the idea of a Maplin Airport. She was always active and always had a warm welcome for whoever turned up on the doorstep of Rugwood.

Frank died over 30 years ago and Doris moved to Wakering where she was grateful for the support of her family, especially Valerie.

Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Mr John Belton

It is with sadness that we note the recent death of John Lewis Belton, at the age of 67 after a short illness.

John was the only child of Percy (Tom) and Dorothy (Jackie) Belton and was born when his parents were living in Hall Farm Cottage. They later moved to Old Hall Farm where John remained after his parents' deaths until he sold his interest in Belton Bros Ltd and moved to The Mallards in Great Wakering.

Educated at Foulness School under the kindly eye of Margaret Wolstencroft, John joined Belton Bros when he left school and was employed by them until he chose to take early retirement.

John must have been one of very few people to have subscribed to both *Lloyd's List* and *The Beano* at the same time, and he still kept a collection of the latter.

He was a quiet man who found it difficult to make friends. His fascination for ships meant that he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of them and their movements, (he was frequently to be found at the sea wall) and he was equally fascinated by commercial vehicles that came to Foulness, keeping their names and numbers in his retentive memory.

Lest We Forget

There will be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard on Sunday November 10th beginning at 9am.

Please come and join us in remembering all those suffering as a result of wars past and present, and to pray for those, especially our own armed forces, caught up in conflict throughout the world today.

In Memoriam

*In November
we remember*

Tom Burroughs

Win Cook

Edna Hume

Denis Lilley

Frank Mead

Jack and Dinah Rawlings

Vera Shelley

Phoebe Webb

and those whose names are on our

War Memorial

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness Parish Council

Due to the previous issue regarding the recording of meetings, the Parish Council continues to hold two separate meetings.

We are holding an informal meeting with QinetiQ, the DIO and the MOD which commences at 7.00pm on the night of Council meetings. This is for the Parish Councillors and the Parishioners of Foulness Island only. This is followed at 7.15 pm by the Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

Foulness Island Residents' Report
– October 2019

Early starts: 15 October, 30 & 31 October - 08:30 at DAT; and 5-7 November & 11-15 November – 08:30 at DAT.

Byway No.5 (Crouch Road): The surface (and possibly sub-surface) of this Public Right Of Way has been damaged by badgers. QinetiQ has stopped its employees and contractors from using the route but we're not permitted to close it to other traffic. We have contacted Essex

Highways to inform them of the state of the route and asked them to inspect it to decide if it should remain open to all traffic. We also have an ecologist checking to see what, if anything can be done about the badgers but this is an ongoing problem. In the meantime, residents should be aware that there is a large hole in the surface. We have coned-off the hazard but it's still possible for vehicles to become stuck in the hole.

Havengore Bridge – manual operation: The bridge will again be operated manually this coming weekend to allow passage for marine traffic. This will be in accordance with the MOD byelaws and so will only be for two hours either side of high tide, during daylight hours. If the bridge is lifted, you can expect delays to road traffic that are slightly longer than usual.

Power Interruption: Monday 14th October: There will be an interruption to the power supply at Havengore Farmhouse on Monday 14th October for approximately 30 minutes between 08:00hrs and 12:00hrs. The tenant has been informed.

Abandoned Boat: A boat has been washed up on the MOD foreshore

at New Ranges, a dinghy called 'Chop Chop'. If anyone knows the owner, please contact nuden@qinetiq.com If the vessel isn't claimed within 28 days, we will dispose of it.

Havengore Bridge: The bridge is working but only under planned lifts, as it requires two men to be present for the opening, to make sure it is done correctly. There are planned openings for this weekend coming, 12th/13th October, and the weekend after next, 26th/27th October.

Roads: There are no works planned for this month.

Ditches: A&B ditching works are in the process of being carried out near New England.

Tree Works or Ground Maintenance Impacts: There are no planned works affecting the Let Estate

Flood Defences: Water Impacts: Major Project Impacts: There are no planned works in any of these areas this month.

Let Estate: Works are being finalised and further information will be made available next month about planned refurbishments.

Statutory Maintenance: Fixed wire testing and Gas servicing is continuing direct by QQ's service provider (EMCOR). EMCOR will be in contact direct regarding these appointments.

Our thanks to Nicki Uden, Community Liaison Officer, and to Edwin Birch, Project Manager for this report.

Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on 9th October and the meeting was attended by Councillors Elaine Pitts (Chair), Gary Bickford (Vice Chair) and Adam Holyland. Apologies were received from Councillor Fran Giles.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2019 were approved.

The meeting was not attended by any County or District Councillors.

Council approved the payment requests for September/October and noted the receipts for the same period. Council also approved the bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2019 and the accounts for the six months to 30th September 2019.

Council also approved the amended bank mandate and Councillors signed as required. It

was also agreed to apply for online facilities in respect of the bank account.

All documents presented to Council can be found on our website.

The meeting closed at 7.41 pm.

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Printing Costs

The Editorial Committee wish to record their grateful thanks for the two recent generous donations towards printing costs of this newsletter – Thank you to those concerned – you know who you are.

Christmas Greetings

As we have done for a number of years recently, if you would like collectively to reduce your carbon footprint and put Christmas greetings to fellow residents in this newsletter, please leave your chosen message in the letter-box

at Old Hall Farm by 18th November – deadline for the December newsletter. This would save a rain forest or two and save on delivery fuel or postage for you. Of course, if you offer any small portion of those savings as a donation towards printing costs it won't be turned down!

If you had greetings inserted last year your Editor proposes to use the same message as last year. If you wish to change the wording or are no longer on 'greetings terms' with your neighbours please let her know as soon as possible!

If you have recently moved onto the island, this is a way of letting the other village know who and where you are.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

Just a reminder that the next meeting of committee and interested friends will be on Tuesday November 12th at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre. Among other things, we'll be thinking about plans for next year. If you can help in any way or bring ideas, your attendance will be very welcome.

The Centre is now closed to outside visitors for the winter while we spend time in

refurbishing and changing our displays for 2019. If, as a resident, you have visitors over the winter and would dearly love to show them what you know is in the Centre, do please have a word with Denise or Peter – maybe we can help you.

May Bank Holiday 2020

You may be aware that the early May Bank Holiday, usually on the first Monday in May, is being changed to the following Friday for next year, to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the end of World War Two in Europe.

The Gt Wakering Community Association has looked at how this day 75 years ago was celebrated at the time, and hopes to have the opportunity of marking the occasion next year. They are asking if anyone has any pictures, articles or memories relating to that time that they could borrow or copy to use. I guess we are getting a bit short of people who have memories of the time, but if you think you have anything to offer, please get in touch with Nicki Garlick on 218573.

On a similar theme, Rochford District Council is working on a community tapestry project to mark the occasion, and hoping to

get someone involved from each of the 14 parishes. They are looking for people able to confirm/identify any key historical points, landmarks or people from the parish, and for anyone interested in helping with the embroidery, appliqué or other sewing that is needed to create the tapestry. They assure us they are not looking for great technical skill but are focussed on community inclusivity.

If you think you have anything to offer, please get in touch either by email 2020tapestry@gmail.com or phone 07990 536876.

Have things changed in 20 years?

Snippets from our magazine

There had been a quiz evening in September and it was reported that over £200 had been raised for church funds.

Residents were looking forward to the November Seafood and Wine evening, always a popular event.

The Parish Council reported that there had been an anonymous donation of £500 for the village hall; this had been spent partly on

refurbishing the kitchen and on repairs to the ladies' toilet.

They were definitely running out of ideas for a theme for the beer tasting: this one was based on beers with silly names. Have there been more or fewer beers with silly names developed in the past 20 years?

Fund-raising: it is interesting to note that it was still possible for an organisation to raise funds by collecting silver paper. Do you remember the days when someone was able to raise money by collecting and selling on drinks cans? Gary will remember.

Have you read ...

Chinese Small Boats

by Sam Pann

Kitchen Condiments

by Mick Spice

German Cities *by Frank Furt*

The Reason I Did It *by Mo Tiff*

Chilling Out *by I Sage*

Crackers about Biscuits

by Gary Baldie

Herbaceous Plants *by John Quill*

Thanks to Roy Eighteen for these

Ploughing Match

Following last month's ploughing match, we must record our congratulations to Jack Burroughs, Eric Dyer and Mark Rawlings who all came away with

prizes for their skill, some in the Rochford Hundred competition and some in the County Ploughing Match.

Foulness Tide Times

November 2019

	AM		PM	
Sat 2	03.02	5.5	15.24	5.6
Sun 3	03.40	5.1	16.11	5.2
Sat 9	10.02	5.1	22.29	5.4
Sun 10	10.43	5.3	23.06	5.5
Sat 16	01.56	5.6	14.15	5.7
Sun 17	02.34	5.4	14.56	5.6
Sat 23	08.58	5.2	21.32	5.6
Sun 24	09.58	5.5	22.27	5.7
Sat 30	02.00	5.7	14.22	5.8

What did you do in the War Daddy and Mummy?

You may have seen elsewhere that communities are marking the 75th Anniversary of the ending of World War II in Europe in various ways, usually paying tribute to those who lost their lives in that conflict.

Here on Foulness it is fair to say that we are lucky in that the loss of life was less than in some larger communities. We would like to make a display in the Heritage

Centre next year to pay tribute to ALL those who 'did their bit' in that conflict, whether it was in the Services or on the Home Front. If you had an ancestor who served either at home or abroad in any way and you have perhaps a photo or a small memento regarding them, please either contact Denise at Old Hall Farm or pop in to the Heritage Centre on a Friday morning to see Bob Crump.

If you have any tale, however short, regarding anyone whose name is on the War Memorial we would love to hear from you. If we don't record these memories they will soon fade. How often have you thought "Oh, I must ask So-and-so about that" only to remember that So-and-so is sadly no longer with us to ask?

Have you tried ...

Antica Roma
12-14 North Street
Rochford

☎ 01702 544868

We popped over there one Sunday evening in autumn, muttering "Do you realise that it'll be dark by the time we get back?" Winter is coming. Still, it was light enough when we got to Rochford so that we could read the timings on the parking instructions. Rochford

car parks charge until 7pm Monday-Friday, Saturday afternoons are free, and parking is free all day Sunday.

Antica Roma is open every day of the week but after a 7-day week you can understand that they close at 8pm on Sundays. They are certainly busy; when we rang about 4pm to book our early evening table there was a birthday party going on in the background. When we arrived at 5.45, we were not the first of the evening diners by any means and the place filled up even more as time went by. Many of those dining were clearly repeat customers, as they were being cheerily greeted by their first names.

There is unobtrusive background music, with an Italian theme (when we were there all the staff were Italian, too, no fakery) and the restaurant clearly appeals to all ages, as there were diners there considerably older than us, and others whom we wrinklies would label young.

Despite not being known, we were warmly greeted and soon seated at a table sparkling with white cloths (not a trace of wipe-clean plastic) and offered the menu. There is a set meal served

Sunday-Thursday at £13.95 for two courses, and a Sunday roast at £10.95 which had no doubt been keeping them busy that day.

We looked at the à la carte menu and from the good range of starters we chose *insalata tricolore*, a pleasing amount of mozzarella cheese with avocado and tomato, with basil, olive oil and balsamic vinegar (£6.55) and calamari with a salad garnish (£8.75). I felt that the tomato in my salad was far too cold and fridge-like, (I've been used to the warmth of tomatoes from the garden for the past three months), but my partner was delighted with the calamari, pronouncing them the best he'd had; there was no trace of rubberiness at all, he said – I can vouch for that, as my fork strayed across the table.

As a main course my partner chose steak Diane (£22.95). He felt the beef was excellent and did query its provenance but the waitress did not know the source of the meat. Wherever, a worthwhile buy. I was delighted with my veal escalope with butter and lemon sauce (£14.95). Both our main dishes came with sauté potatoes, thin and crinkle-cut rather than chunky, but a good crunch nevertheless. With these

no more vegetables were needed, especially as I always have my eye on the dessert menu.

That menu offered a good choice, ranging from the simple ice creams through to more expensive and complicated dishes. We both fell for the home-made panna cotta with caramel sauce (£4.95). These came in an old-fashioned 'bowl on a stem', the sort of thing I remember from my grandmother's cupboards, but they were ideal, as there was no trouble in getting some of the sauce into the spoon with the panna cotta.

At £5.25 for a pint of Peroni and £4.95 for a small glass of wine, and with £2.75 for a J20, the cost soon adds up and our meal out managed to blow the recent Premium Bond winnings, but it was a pleasant evening and we'd be happy to go again when the bonds cooperate. Their website indicates that 10% service charge would be added to the bill, so nothing extra was left, but later, more careful, perusal of the paper bill showed no sign of the 10% - twinges of guilt might make us go again sooner rather than later.

And finally ... There was once the tale of a man who was towing a

wagon-load of monkeys, and he broke down in a country lane. Totally at a loss and being concerned for the welfare of the monkeys, he felt he needed to get them to their destination as soon as possible.

Fortunately for his peace of mind, he was able to stop a passing old country boy in his pickup and said to him, "If I give you £50 will you take this trailer of monkeys to the zoo, which is where I was going when I broke down?"

The old boy agreed, hitched up the trailer to his pickup and was soon on his way, cheerily waving goodbye to the stranded motorist.

The chap then waited for the breakdown lorry to turn up and haul him out of the way. Two hours passed and he was still waiting for assistance and the lorry.

But to his surprise, the battered old pickup came back past, still towing the wagonload of monkeys. The stranded motorist flagged him down and said, "I thought we agreed you were going to take these monkeys to the zoo?"

"I did, but we had some money left over, so I thought I'd take them to the cinema as well."

Items for publication, (an advert, an opinion, 'free to a good home') are always

welcomed. For inclusion in the next newsletter, items should be with Denise at Hall Farm by the 18th of the preceding month.

