

# *Foulness Island*

*March 2018*

Last month, with Easter coming early this year, we began the season the Christian Church calls Lent. It refers to the period when Jesus went off into the wilderness before he began his public ministry, when he faced up to the temptations that surround a popular campaign.

If you could offer to turn stones into bread so that your followers are always well filled and contented, attendant success is bound to follow. You have only to look in the newspapers to see what people will offer to be able to stay in power. But Jesus remembered the Scriptures, which are as true for us as they were for Him: "Man cannot live by bread alone". There is so

much more to our lives than materialism, and the developing of the spiritual side of our human natures is a task not to be ignored. How will we end up otherwise?

Temptation (the Devil) can offer power and wealth. But you have only to watch the TV news or read the papers to see that power and wealth can be very corrupting forces. To follow power and wealth for their own sakes leads people into very dark and dangerous byways. When we can put first the teachings of Christ, then we receive the fulfilment of God's promise: "... and he will provide you with all these other things".

Jesus was tempted by the sure-fire success of sensationalism. Throw yourself from the height of the Temple and no ill will befall you? Wonderful happenings, ecstatic crowds, feelings of being on a high ..?

He chose the better path. We need to stop in our lives and think what might be for us the better path.

### **In Memoriam**

*In March  
we remember*

*Dennis Barrett*

*Betty Childs*

*Joan Clark*

*Lily Dean*

*Stephen Hume*

*Denis Lilley*

*Grace Nichols*

*Jim Pedrick*

*Olive Willsmer*

*Margaret Wolstencroft*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### **Foulness Parish Council**

#### *Council Matters*

#### **February Meeting:**

The Parish Council held its meeting on 14th February 2018.

The meeting approved the payment requests for January/February 2018. The Council also noted the receipts in January 2018 which were refunds of VAT for 2015/16 and 2016/17. Copies of these documents can be found on our website.

Council also noted the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2017 and the accounts for the nine months to 31st December 2017. Again, copies of these documents can be found on our website.

Council reviewed the scale of fees for 2018/2019 in respect of the Parish Burial Ground and agreed that there would be no increase from the fees charged for 2017/18. Council further agreed that the age of death at which fees should be charged be increased to persons whose age of death exceeded 15 years. This had previously been 10 years.

Council conducted their annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Council authorised the Clerk to submit a necessary revised and updated bank mandate to the Co-op Bank.

Council also authorised the Clerk to look into the procedure and cost of setting up a charitable trust in respect of the children's play area with a view to obtaining funds to improve the facilities in the area.

Discussions regarding the possible provision of Post Office facilities on the Island are still ongoing.

The Clerk reported that he would be issuing tender documents in respect of maintenance of the Parish Burial Ground in the next few days. He also reported on the ongoing problems regarding the new Data Protection requirements.

District Councillor Daniel Efde gave a brief report on matters of interest to Foulness Island parishioners.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 14th March 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm in the Staff Premises at Lodge Farm.

All documents presented to Council can be viewed on the Parish Council website

#### *QinetiQ Report*

Most of the difficulties residents have been encountering with Severn and Trent's water billing have now been resolved.

There will be a late finish at Churchend on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

There will be early starts (8.30am) at DAT on 28<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March and on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

There will be land closures in Land Areas 3 and 4 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and on 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The overgrown area outside Landwick Gate has now been cut back.

There has been some confusion about the Fire Hydrant Water Pressure Testing being conducted by Severn and Trent Water. It was hoped to resolve these issues shortly.

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## **Foulness – Did you know?**

### *Ridgemarksh*

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century it is recorded that the land around Ridgemarksh was used more for arable than dairying, the reclaimed land in that part of the island being more fertile. Parts of the building date from that time, though experts are generally agreed that some timbers from an even earlier building have been used. Ridgemarksh was the first brick building recorded on the island and is sometimes referred to as Bricked House. It's built in Flemish Bond. Bricks were probably brought in from the brickfields at Stambridge.

When the then War Department acquired Foulness in the second decade of the last century, Ridgemarksh and New House Farms were together valued at £6,500. (Above information taken from John Smith's book entitled simply *Foulness* written at the time we were threatened with the Third London Airport.)

At the time of its building it was a typical marshland farmhouse such as could be seen along the Kent and Essex coasts. It has a

catslide roof on the north side (which was originally thatched) which housed the kitchen, bakehouse and pantry. The south side, which faced the road, had the more expensive tiles and accommodated the living room, parlour and bedrooms. Like many farmhouses on Foulness it had farm labourers' accommodation in the loft, accessed by a ladder.

Today the building is in a sorry state. Despite being listed, little money seems to be available for its upkeep and time and weather are making real inroads into it; soon it will be a distant memory despite many efforts to spur the authorities into looking after it.

The black barn beside it pre-dates the brick house, and was most probably built at the same time as the original farmhouse was built, well over 300 years ago.

### **Foulness Heritage Centre**

With the new season of open days coming up, we are especially keen to welcome new volunteers who feel they may be able to help in any way, especially in the kitchen. You

don't have to be an expert on Foulness, just someone who is willing to get involved in Foulness life. If you would like to learn more, you will be more than welcome to chat to us at the forthcoming AGM – see notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Mr Ron Kennedy

If you were a member of the Foulness Amenities Club you may well remember attending a most interesting talk in the Village Hall given by Mr Ron Kennedy.

He spoke of his days working on the railway, based primarily in Stratford, and entertained us all with many amusing tales. What probably proved most of interest for us were his memories of driving the Flying Scotsman, from 1956 until its retirement in 1963.

Those of us interested in that train will have watched TV programmes regarding its multi-million pound refit, and if you attended Ron's talk you will have recognised him reminiscing in those programmes. It is sad to

note that he has recently died, aged 85.

### Foulness Tide Times March 2018

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 3	00.53	6.0	13.12	6.1
Sun 4	01.23	6.1	13.54	6.1
Sat 10	05.39	4.8	18.08	4.5
Sun 11	06.51	4.5	19.26	4.4
Sat 17	00.02	5.5	12.20	5.6
Sun 18	00.37	5.7	12.55	5.7
Sat 24	04.21	5.5	16.52	5.0
Sun 25	06.19	5.2	19.00	4.8
Sat 31	00.52	5.8	13.12	5.9

Adjustments have been made for British Summer Time

We have already had the highest scheduled tide of the year but at the beginning of this month they come pretty close to the highest

### Hurd the Word

The way to start your week away in Cumbria is with a visit to Bampton to attend a church service delivered by Alun Hurd. This sleepy village with its historic church recently received its first visitors from Foulness Island. Alun married us in Little

Wakering Church so it was lovely to catch up with him and his wife Sharon. After the service we were made very welcome by the congregation and invited to coffee and cake. Alun and Sharon seem to have taken to Cumbrian life and send their best wishes to all.

*Fran and Steve Giles*

### **Wakering Spring Flower Show**

Sunday 25th March

This show is always a pleasure to visit and, as there's still a few weeks to go yet, the spring flowers have a chance to get going to delight us all again this year. Even if you don't exhibit (and the classes are open to those who live on Foulness – see Great Wakering Community Association newsletter for where to obtain the year-book and entry form) it's always worth having a look to see what our gardens might aspire to at this time of year.

If you don't feel you can manage the specialist spring flower classes there's always something as apparently relatively simple as

a vase of spring flowers or shrubs or one of the domestic classes. Try entering 'best bloom' – you've only got to find one decent bloom in the garden, of any sort, to have an entry worth making.

There are classes for children, too, judged by age. Have a look in the GWCA newsletter for more information. Schedules are available now. You never know, your one nice bloom, sheltered from damaging winds blowing elsewhere, might very well win. Even just a glance at the schedule costs you nothing and might give you some ideas.

### **Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society**

You will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter the date for the 2018 AGM. This will be followed by an ordinary meeting. In my absence, the date for this was not set at the last meeting. Please take this as notice of the date and let anything else know who normally attends. Many thanks.

*Peter Carr, Chairman*



### The curse of the commentator

'The goalkeeper mishandled it with both feet'

*Nigel Worthington*

'The clouds are cloudy'

*Henry Blofeld*

'I can't remember a start like this in living memory'

*Charles Colville*

'He's more underestimated than a lot of people give him credit for'

*Frank Bruno*

'I want six bridesmaids. You only get married once'

*Katie Price*

'If my dad were still alive today he'd turn in his grave'

*Jeremy Kyle Show*

They're sitting ducks just standing there *Glenn Hoddle*

### Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The Trustees of the Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

invite all members and friends of the Society to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Tuesday March 13th at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre.

### Have you tried ...

#### The Mews

2 Nelson Mews  
Southend on Sea  
Essex  
SS1 1AL

☎ 01702 393626

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

For my birthday my wife booked us a table at The Mews Restaurant in Southend. It's handily located next to the Clarence Road car park which had plenty of spaces even on a Saturday night.

The Mews has a bar downstairs with the restaurant upstairs. Our booking was for 8:30 and both the bar and restaurant were very busy. In fact, we were seated at the last empty table in the restaurant. While we were there several groups were subsequently turned away so we would guess that booking is essential on busy nights.

There were a couple of large groups in the restaurant which contributed to the noise although it wasn't too loud considering

how busy the place was. The service was reasonably quick too.

For starters I had the prawn and crayfish cocktail which was excellent, a good take on the dish with the crayfish being a nice little twist. The accompanying warm crusty bread was wonderful but it would have been improved with a bit of butter.

My wife had the duck spring rolls which she thought were just as good as in her favourite Chinese restaurant although a little more hoisin sauce would have been nice.

For mains we both had the bass in a bacon and leek sauce. We agreed that this dish was excellent. The accompanying vegetable platter was extremely generous; we probably only had about half of the contents of the dish.

For pudding I had the lemon sorbet which was lovely; sharp and very refreshing.

My wife had an apple crumble with ice cream. She was really happy with her choice; the crumble had a nice crunch to it – plenty of butter and sugar!

We would certainly visit The Mews again but we would like to try it on a quieter night.

**And finally:** The son of an ageing farmer suggested that his father was getting very overweight because modern farming methods were devoid of hard graft compared with the old days.

After much consideration, the farmer was persuaded to go to the gym at his nearest sports centre.

While working out, he spotted a very attractive young lady exercising at the far end of the gym and asked the trainer overseeing his efforts what machine he should use to impress her.

The trainer eyed him up and down and replied, "There's a cash point in the lobby; try that."

*Items (articles, adverts, 'free to a good home', opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the March newsletter these should be with dropped in the letter box at Old Hall Farm by 18<sup>th</sup> March.*