

Foulness Island

December 2019

With December and the Advent season upon us, our thoughts are squarely set upon being ready to celebrate Christmas, the time of the birth of Jesus, God's Son. Out comes the address book, with Christmas cards to write and send, some to family, some to friends. Lists for this, lists for that, presents to buy, places to go. All too easily we can find ourselves swept along like lemmings, caught up in something called "the Christmas rush". Amidst the rush, how often do we pause and ask the question "Why?"?

Advent, and the Church's mood is one of preparation, of being both awake and alert, a mood born out of the expectancy of Christmas, whatever it means to us. Yes, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, but what meaning does His birth hold for us all? We can always delight in watching a film version of Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" which conveys the spirit of Christmas, even if it is the Muppets' version on telly! A story of rebirth, expressing itself in a new life, giving generosity, reconciliation, abiding peace and joy. It's a call to a mean-spirited world. A call to loosen the purse strings of the soul and to mirror God's generosity. Read again Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Amidst the domestic preparations it would be good to set aside time to think about the significance of Christmas. If you can find the time to go to a local carol service you'd find you are very welcome and it would be a fitting start to the season.

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In Memoriam

In December we remember

*Mick Barker
Dorothy (Jackie) Belton
Cyril Bird
Leon Dobson
Bill Lilley
Dennis Self
Revd Brian Shannon
Barbara Taylor
John (Jake) Willsmer
Joyce Willsmer*

Gone but not forgotten

Mary Self
would like to wish
all her Foulness friends
a Very Happy Christmas and
all the best for the New Year

Ann
would like to wish
all neighbours and friends
a Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year

Peter and Denise
wish all their friends
a Happy Christmas
and a healthy 2020

Wishing you all every happiness
& good health
for this Christmas season
and all year long.
Thea

Mary and Peter
would like to wish all our
Foulness friends a very merry
Christmas, with good health and
happiness in 2020

The Chairman, Councillors and
Clerk to the Parish Council
would like to wish everyone
a very Happy Christmas
and offer good wishes for 2020

The Trustees and Committee
of the
Foulness Island Heritage Centre
would like to take this opportunity
to wish all members
a very Happy Christmas

Peace and happiness
Mary Jefford

A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our neighbours
Bryan and June

Hope everyone has
a Happy Christmas,
From Peter and Rachel,
Amelia and Isaac

Rita
would like to wish everyone
a Happy Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2020

Milly's Deli
in Leigh-on-sea is offering
a 20% discount
for Foulness Islanders
on all orders from
their Christmas brochure.
Email nazewick@gmail.com
for a copy.

Ben, Laura, Milly and Bonnie
wish everybody
a wonderful Christmas and
a Happy New Year!

Christmas Services

If you haven't noticed the dates in the *Broomway Beagle*, and have been considering going to a Christmas service, there is Beer and Carols at the Castle on 20th December, 7pm, a Candlelight Service at St Nicholas at 6.30pm on 22nd December and a Crib Service at St Nicholas on 24th December at 4pm.

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.

We have been approached by the Parish Clerk at Great Wakering who has received numerous complaints about lorries visiting the Island speeding in New Road. These have been identified as vehicles delivering to or collecting from farms on the Island and we ask residents to ask delivery drivers to take care when driving down New Road.

QinetiQ Report

A report was given about the intention by QinetiQ to re-issue all passes to the Island. Due to unforeseen circumstances this had been delayed. Concern was expressed by those attending the meeting about the security checks that were carried out on new residents and visitors.

Early starts: 14 November - 08:30 at DAT; 20 & 21 November - 08:30 at Rugwood

Hedge Cutting in Churchend – Friday 17 November: Road restrictions will be in place in Churchend from approximately 13:00 so that an overgrown hedge can be cut back and cleared. Traffic control will be in place.

Street Lights: Please report any faulty street lights that you've noticed to the helpdesk with the number found on the lamppost if possible.

Christmas Shutdown: The Range will close for Christmas on Tuesday 24 December and re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020.

New Tenants: Following successful viewings in October, 22 and 30 Churchend have both been offered to new tenants.

Bridge: The bridge is currently still out of use, pending repairs.

Ditches: A&B ditching works is currently underway, but will not affect any tenants.

Tree Works or Ground Maintenance Impacts: Works are being undertaken to cut the hedges at Churchend.

Water Impacts: None planned. Tenants were advised regarding cold weather and keeping an eye on any external pipes.

Major Projects Impacts: Let Estate works will be starting in December. No effect on any tenants. It was explained to the council that there will be a full briefing in due course on the plans for the sea wall project.

Let Estate: Tanks and base replacement is being planned in for a number of properties. All affected will be written to.

Roads: No road works planned for the duration of the Financial year.

Flood Defences and Power Impacts: There are no planned works for this month.

Statutory Maintenance: Tenants are being written to as and when needed.

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

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 9th November and 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 9th October were approved.

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

Council approved the payment requests for October/November and noted the receipts for the same period.

Council also approved the amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Authority given to him by the Council, he had transferred £4,000 from the current bank account to the interest paying bank account.

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

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

John Watson
Parish Clerk
Foulness Island Parish Council

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Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

As we come to the end of another year, we looked back at our recent committee and friends meeting at the year that is finishing. A particularly high point is the emergence of a happy team in the kitchen, gelling well and having a good (but busy) time while they press-gang some unexpected people into having 'dish-pan hands'. If you feel you could spare an hour or so to join them next year, even on an occasional basis, you would be more than welcome – have a word with Fran or Penny. If you feel like joining in in any other way, you will be equally welcome – let us know your interests and we can find something for your talents.

We shall be closed over the winter, apart from our regular refurbishings and coffee-drinking; if you'd like a chat with Bob – you may have found an odd object in your garden! – he's usually to be found at the Centre on a Friday morning.

Have things changed in 20 years?

Snippets from our magazine

A group of hardy souls went carol-singing round the two villages. This was usually an annual event but had had to be cancelled the previous December because of atrocious weather.

Present at the first church service of the month was the Venerable David Jennings, Archdeacon of Southend. He had previously been vicar at St Edward's, Romford, and went on to be Bishop of Warrington, eventually retiring to Gloucestershire.

Older residents were looking forward to the annual Christmas lunch provided by the Amenities Club.

The Parish Council had asked about having a Flood Warning siren installed on the island but this had proved to be too expensive. We would have to continue to depend on the Cascade Warning System.

"What did you do in the war?"

You may have noticed that in the last newsletter we wrote about a display we hope to have at the

Heritage Centre next year, marking the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. There is available online a list drawn up by Rochford Council, noting all residents and, to put it simply, what they might contribute to the war effort and especially in the case of an emergency, such as doing heavy work or first aid.

We would like to pay tribute to all these people. Please, do you have any photos of any who were adult in the '40s? We would be grateful if we might be allowed to borrow them, to scan them and return them. Denise, at Hall Farm, would be very pleased to hear from you

Used Stamps

Here's my annual reminder and plea which holds good for all the year: if you think of it when the cards start dropping through the door, please tear off the stamps from the envelopes, leaving a small border of paper. British or foreign – all stamps can be used. If you would drop them off in the porch at Hall Farm I shall be pleased to collect them up together and send them off to a deserving charity – they sell them to collectors here and abroad to raise funds. Thank you.

Denise

Have you tried ...

Britannia Fish and Chips
6 Eastern Esplanade
Southend-on-sea
SS1 2ER

Having watched the old Britannia public house being pulled about over many months during our walks along the seafront, after shopping in Southend one Friday (when we had seen it had reopened) we walked to the new fish and chip restaurant it had been transformed into. It's right next to Bailey's Fish and Chips – this was closed, whether it's due to the competition I don't know, or if it is opening again.

Britannia is more of an upmarket fish and chip place, very nice inside. It is part of the same group as Adventure Island, and you get a discount if you have a Sea Life pass, for instance. I had never been in it as a pub but my husband had played darts there many years ago, and said that it had been very small – when the door opened you had to move!

There is a takeaway service and a restaurant which is geared up to a quick trade with easy-wipe furniture etc. You order at the counter, not at your table. Our

drinks order (tea and Americano) came quickly. The friendly waitress brought our order in takeaway boxes with bamboo knives and forks – no washing up for the staff.

Just as we were settling in our seats a few more people came in with children and then someone who I knew from Wakering who got a takeaway which he and his wife were going to eat in the car. (It's always worth remembering that takeaways are not subject to VAT.)

Some of the fish dishes come as small or large, and the chip portions are medium or large, so all appetites are catered for. My small cod had more than enough chips and my husband felt my 'medium' chips was almost as big as his 'large'. Our total bill was £20.70.

Wine, lager and various cold drinks are available, as are ice creams to end the meal.

The friendly waitress was most helpful, interested in our reaction to the meal and also interested in details about the previous pub. We will certainly go there again, especially if we want a quick meal, but probably not in the height of the summer season when I guess it will do really well.

Have you read ...

To Be the Best *by Sue Perbb*
 Warm Ankles *by Lucy Lassie*
 Settling the problem

by R Bittration

A form of pension *by Anne Newity*
 Early Postage Stamps

by Penny Black

Stuck on rocks *by Barney Calls*
 In a Stew *by Pearl Barley*
 The Pachyderm Trail

by L E Fant and Ryan Oceross
 Another Hostile Woman

by Anne Taggonist

Petticoat Lane and Jellied Eels
by E Stender

The Seine, Rhone and Loire
by Francis Rivers

No More, Please *by E Nuff*

Thanks to Roy Eighteen for these

Foulness Tide Times

December 2019

| | AM | | PM | |
|--------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Sun 1 | 02.38 | 5.5 | 15.04 | 5.5 |
| Sat 7 | 08.12 | 4.7 | 20.50 | 5.4 |
| Sun 8 | 09.09 | 4.9 | 21.41 | 5.1 |
| Sat 14 | 01.05 | 5.7 | 13.22 | 5.9 |
| Sun 15 | 01.46 | 5.7 | 14.05 | 5.9 |
| Sat 21 | 07.16 | 5.1 | 19.57 | 5.2 |
| Sun 22 | 08.27 | 5.2 | 21.05 | 5.3 |
| Sat 28 | 01.05 | 5.7 | 13.25 | 5.8 |
| Sun 29 | 01.44 | 5.6 | 14.06 | 5.7 |

And finally ... Mike arrives home from work after a long and weary day to be greeted by his dog, holding his neighbour's pet rabbit in its mouth.

Fluffy the rabbit is dead, and Mike understandably panics.

He thinks his neighbours are going to hate him forever, bearing in mind the little neighbours who love the rabbit, so he takes the dirty chewed-up rabbit into his house. He gives it a bath, blow dries its fur and puts the rabbit back in its cage in the shed at his neighbour's house, hoping that when they find it they'll think it died of natural causes.

A few days later the neighbour is outside in the garden and asks Mike over the fence, "Did you hear that our rabbit, Fluffy, had died?"

Mike stumbled about a bit, um-ing and er-ing, and finally replied, "Um, no, what happened?"

"We just found him dead in his cage one day", the neighbour replied. "But the weird thing is that the day after we buried Fluffy, we went to clean out his cage and someone had dug Fluffy up, given him a bath and put him back in his cage!"

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.