

Foulness Island

December 2017

Climate change. This is so much, and so often, in the news, that we tend to blank out our minds when the newsreader trots out the same old sentences; we maybe hold our breath or we maybe shout back our opinions at the screen. And then we have a period like we've had recently. One week we're experiencing a glorious Indian Summer and the next week we're plunged into more seasonal weather, switching on the heating all day, listening to the forecaster talk of 'plummeting temperatures' and realising that the year is fast slipping away. Out come the Advent calendars, through the letterbox come yet more catalogues and we stop to think and plan what we are going to do over the Christmas period. Time takes on a new relevance as we start to make ready for the coming of Christ.

In Advent, the mood is one of expectation, a mood born out of the approach of Christmas. We are pestered on all sides by the commercial approach to the season, but there is another side, a side with deeper meaning, and this existed long before commerce found the season was another way of prising money out of the consumer.

Watching a film version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" (even if it's the Muppet version) you can become aware of that earlier spirit of Christmas. There's a story of rebirth, expressing itself in a new life giving generosity, reconciliation, abiding peace and joy. There's a call to the mean-spirited world, a call to loosen the purse strings for the benefit of others. If that film's in the TV schedules again this year, try watching it from that aspect.

In Memoriam

*In December
we remember*

*Mick Barker
Dorothy (Jackie) Belton
Cyril Bird
Bill Lilley
Dennis Self
Rev Brian Shannon
Barbara Taylor
John (Jake) Willsmer
Joyce Willsmer
Gone but not forgotten*

The Chairman, Councillors and
Clerk to the Parish Council
would like to wish everyone
a very Happy Christmas and
offer good wishes for 2018

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

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 2017.

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

Peter, Rachel and Amelia
would like to invite everyone to
Lodge Farm for mulled wine and
mince pies on Friday 22nd Dec
from 7PM. Please let us know
on 218905 if you're coming.

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

Rita would like to wish everyone
a Happy Christmas and a happy
and healthy 2018.

Mary, Peter and Toby would like
to wish all our Foulness friends a
very Merry Christmas.
With good health and happiness
in 2018

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

Wishing everyone
a very Happy Christmas and a
happy and peaceful New Year
from Joyce and Leon

Rita would like to wish everyone
a Happy Christmas and a happy
and healthy 2018.

Foulness Parish Council

Council approved the payment
requests for the month of
November and also noted the
receipts for the month. Copies of
both schedules can be found on
our website.

Council approved the bank
reconciliation as at 30th
September 2017 noting that the

bank balance as at that date was
£3,966 99.

Council also approved the
accounts to 30th September
2017. The Clerk reported that
the net income for the six
months was £226.38 but that the
budget expectation was a
shortfall for the year of £833.00.

Finally, Council approved the
Risk Assessment Report for the
year. Copies of all the above
documents are available to view
on the website. The Clerk
reported that it would now be
necessary to inspect the
children's play area on a weekly
basis and Councillor Bickford
agreed to do this.

It was noted that the procedure
to make payments in respect of
compensation claims regarding
the major power failure on the
Island had now been completed
and parishioners should receive
payment shortly.

The Clerk reported that he had
written to DIO regarding the
availability of a building which
could be used as a Post Office
but was still awaiting a response.

District Councillors Hughes and
Hookway reported on the

petition they were organising regarding the retention of the Public Toilets in Great Wakering.

It was noted that the verges on the road just outside the Landwick gate was becoming very overgrown and Councillors Hughes and Hookway agreed to take this up with the Clerk at Great Wakering who could then contact Essex Highways.

It was agreed that there would not be a Council meeting in December.

QinetiQ report

- Early Start (8.30 am) at DAT on 22nd to 24th and on 27th to 30th November.
- There would be a few more days of firing at Nazewick from 13th to 15th December.
- No Power or Water interruptions expected.
- There would be an increase in traffic in respect of the construction work with large lorries carrying piling rigs expected. It would help if cars could be parked on the south side of the road through Churchend to allow passage for the lorries. Piling will be starting

on 12th November and it is expected that this will generate a great deal of noise.

- QinetiQ had met with the Contractors re Havengore Bridge to ensure that the problems encountered previously would not be repeated.

- Work was ongoing in respect of roadside maintenance. QinetiQ were currently short staffed but were taking on two new people in their general maintenance team and will be working through the jobs to be done.

- Residents were asked to report any street lights not working.

- All buildings on the island should have power and residents were asked to let QinetiQ know of any building that didn't have this facility

John Watson
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e-mail foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk

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!

Used Stamps

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

Denise

Foulness Island War Memorial

The island's war memorial has been awarded a Grade II listed status by Historic England. In addition it has been added to the list of "Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest".

The curse of the commentator

"The Golden Globe nominations
... seen as an indication as to
who might win a Golden Globe"

Eddie Mair Radio 4

"The thing about trial and error
is that it leads to mistakes"

Charlie Nicholas Sky Sports

"Concussion is definitely a big
challenge. We have to address it
head-on"

Ian Ritchie Radio 5 Live

'I join you from the paddock
here where two horses were
accidentally electrocuted ...
Today we have three more live
races for you.'

Alice Plunkett

'And so for the moment the
Great Britain ladies' hockey
team is down to ten men'

BBC TV

**Foulness Tide Times
December 2017**

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 2	10.37	5.8	23.07	5.8
Sun 3	11.26	6.0	23.54	6.0
Sat 9	03.55	5.5	16.25	5.6
Sun 10	04.52	5.3	17.27	5.4
Sat 16	10.55	5.4	23.08	5.5
Sun 17	11.33	5.5	23.53	5.5
Sat 23	02.41	5.4	15.05	5.4
Sun 24	03.16	5.3	15.43	5.2
Sat 30	09.09	5.3	21.47	5.5
Sun 31	10.10	5.6	22.46	5.7

They lived on Foulness

Len Hume

Len was born in 1927 in the former Workhouse which had long been converted to residential premises. He was one of four children and they and their parents lived in two rooms.

When Len caught scarlet fever in his childhood, he was taken to hospital in a cart, covered in a blanket, across the Maplin Sands. The Isolation Hospital was where the Purdey Estate now is.

Len attended school on Foulness. When he started there were about 84 children, but the number had dwindled to around 47 by the time he left.

Before the metalled road was built (there were previously only dirt tracks) families had to go to Burnham by boat to do their shopping. Sometimes a man used to go round the island houses to collect orders and then the family would have to go down to the sea wall at the Crouch to collect the delivery.

Len's father was head horseman and working days were very long, especially in the summer when it was not unusual to be in the stables by 4.30am.

When he could, Len would help with the hay-cutting and for this he would be given half-a-crown a week (12½ pence).

Information taken from an account by Len of his childhood memories, available in the Heritage Centre.

Have you tried ...

Tomassi's
9 High Street, Southend
01702 435000
www.tomassis.net

Well, of course you have, but despite having lived in this area for a number of years we hadn't yet got around to it ourselves. It turned out to be one of those happenstance things when all ends well. We had to go into Southend early one Monday evening to make a delivery and thought we'd try a new fish restaurant we'd seen an article about in the *Echo*. Maybe I'd misremembered the address or maybe they hadn't yet got open despite the publicity, but we didn't find them. So, having abandoned the kitchen for the evening, we had to find a meal and had a wander down the High Street. From a distance Tomassi's appeared to be closed but on reaching it we found that not only was it open, there were several tables filled at the early hour of 6.30 on a Monday.

Closing times seem to vary according to the day, and on a Monday it's around 8.30pm,

which is reasonable for a middle-of-the-road restaurant at the bottom end of the High Street. They were certainly busy enough; my partner was facing the door (I could see the serving counter) and he kept me regularly updated with 'another table about to be filled' – people kept coming in.

The tables are sensible wipe-clean ones and are kept spotlessly clean, but they do run the risk of getting sticky from the cleaner. Some tables had freesias in a small vase, and all were big enough to eat at comfortably; nothing worse than a table that's not big enough for the plates and accompaniments.

Looking around I had to admit that the place was a far cry from the 'upstairs at Cotgroves' of old, but then that's not the market that Tomassi's is aiming for.

Having earlier thought in terms of fish we decided to stick with it, and found there was ample choice on the menu. If you have access to the internet you can see there is a good range of varying starters, and then fish, steaks, chicken, salads, pasta – spoilt for choice. There are several types

of fish available (and a seafood platter at weekends on the Special) but we opted for deep-fried haddock in batter (£8.65) and ditto skate (£10.25). The haddock came over-hanging the plate, and the skate was two good-sized portions of middle wing. Both dishes had a nice segment of lemon, a little pot of tartare sauce and a small amount of cress. Other things were available as extras. The chips came in a separate hot container which retained its heat throughout the time I was eating – so crisp chips all the time.

We looked at the drinks menu that's on the same card as the main courses, and my partner was delighted at the sight of 'craft beers – please ask' but unfortunately that night the answer was that they didn't have any and he had to put up with London Pride. There was a good choice of wines, by the bottle or by the glass, and plenty of soft drinks. I could see a wide choice of coffees but didn't find 'tea' mentioned till I got around to picking up the dessert menu. On which subject my partner took one look at that menu and said "They've got some cracking

sweets". When I looked I had to agree: there was a choice of 29 different desserts, mostly variations on the ice cream theme, and what's wrong with that once in a while? It would be worth going to Tomassi's just for the pudding course!

I came away thinking that the thimbleful of cress and the four pieces of fruit in the knickerbocker glory didn't do a lot for my five-a-day but golly! did I enjoy that meal.

And finally – here's a selection of some terrible Christmas cracker jokes ...

How did the human cannonball lose his job? *He got fired!*

How do Snowmen travel around? *By icicle!*

What are two rows of cabbages called? *A dual cabbage way!*

What bee can never be understood? *A mumble-bee!*

What do you call a sick Crocodile? *An illigator!*