

# *Foulness Island*

*July 2017*

The summer season is once more upon us and, with it, thoughts of a well-earned holiday, hopefully somewhere in the sun or, if not, at least a period of rest and relaxation. In the farming community thoughts may lay elsewhere, considering the work that is to be done to help ensure the world is fed. Very few of us will be hoping it rains, even if it means the chore of having to water the vegetables in the garden.

Rain? It is an undeniable fact that water is essential for life; without it we perish in days and our crops fail to grow. The period of rain a few weeks ago after months of almost-drought conditions was almost a literal life-saver for our crops on here. When we have a notice that the water is to be turned off we scurry around making sure we have our largest saucepans filled with water. It's all very well for C2C (or whatever they're called these days) to leave bottled water in two strategic places when they think of it, but we aren't all able to get to those places at the drop of a hat. The thought of having to go without a cup of tea is a great motivator! In general we are blessed in this country with sufficient water for our needs, with little thought having to be given to its quality as it pours forth from our taps.

Remember, if you will, the one billion people around the world who lack safe, clean drinking water.

### **Mr John Mahoney**

It is with sadness that we note the recent death of Mr John Mahoney, of Churchend, after a long period of ill health.

John had lived on Foulness since the mid 1970s with his late wife Ann, first in Courtend and then in Churchend, along with their son and two daughters.

Before coming to live here, they had moved from south London where John worked for the GPO, before transferring to Pitsea, and he continued using his telecom expertise when he moved here, both for the GPO and in willingly assisting residents if they had a telephone problem.

Both he and Ann were quiet and unassuming, very helpful and peaceful neighbours, as were their children. It was always a happy house, filled with laughter.

They appreciated the wild life and the natural habitat of the island.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Neil, Debbie and Mark and Sarah as they come to terms with their loss.

### **In Memoriam**

*In July and August  
we remember*

*Karl Arnold  
Bob Glover  
Jack Hume  
"Jeff" Jefford  
Cyril Nicholls  
Annie (Nancy) Payne  
Joyce Pedrick  
Reg Tillbrook  
John Willsmer*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations are due  
to the new  
Mr Ian and Mrs Ellie Burroughs  
after their wedding  
on 17<sup>th</sup> June at  
St Nicholas, Gt Wakering

### **Foulness Parish Council**

There was no Parish Council meeting in June. The next scheduled meeting is for July 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see village notice boards for agenda and further details.

## **QinetiQ Notes**

*Early Starts:* 28 & 29 June, 08:30 at DAT and 10-14 July, 07:00 at Churchend

*Power and Water Interruptions:* none reported

*Security Closure – June to October:* This security closure continues to be in force. With the exception of those used to access homes at The Chase, all Public Right of Way routes in Land Areas 3 & 4 and The Broomway will be closed continuously throughout the period.

*Power Cut Compensation:* A way forward has now been agreed between DIO and QQ. DIO will be writing to tenants with details in the near future.

*Security Pass Update:* All tenants should have received a letter detailing how they can update details of those residing at their address, apply for a new residential pass and re-sponsor or remove visitor passes. Keeping passes up to date ensures that only legitimate visitors are permitted access and eases access through Landwick Gate for residents and their visitors so we would appreciate your co-operation.

## **Children's Society boxes**

I'm grateful to those who managed to get your boxes to me this past month. We have been able to send off to Headquarters the wonderful sum of £649.49 which compares well with past years.

Unfortunately we are losing some of our box holders, so if anyone feels they could have a box indoors in which to drop the occasional coin to help children less fortunate than those we know here, I would be very happy to hear from you.

I'm asked to remind you that the £1 coin is changing. If you might have dropped into your box this year one of the old plain £1 coins please contact Denise, as the banks will soon be refusing to accept these coins, and accepting only the new two-part coins. *Denise*

## **Foulness Newsletter**

The Editorial Committee is grateful to those who have shown their appreciation of the newsletter by making a donation towards the printing and postage costs. If you've been meaning to drop an envelope through the door of 23 Churchend it's never too late. Thank you.

### **David and Ruth Rippingale**

By the time you read this magazine, you may know that David and Ruth have decided to move to Wakering. After a lifetime of living on Foulness, they, like many before, feel it would be better to move to be nearer 'civilisation'.

Over the years David and Ruth have been involved in so many good things that have happened on Foulness. Their CV is impressive. They were founder members of the Amenities Club. They have looked after the War Graves and War Memorial. They were at the front of the protests when the third London Airport was proposed. More recently Ruth and David held their garden parties in aid of the Air Ambulance and both have helped make the Heritage Centre the success it has become.

They have touched the lives of so many people on Foulness offering help, advice and friendship. Both were born and raised on Foulness, going to school, church and married here. For 50 years they have lived at Old Hall Farm Cottage, making the garden a delight to see. David worked for Belton Bros on leaving

school in 1955, and his advice and observations are still heeded.

As islanders born and bred, they are a disappearing type, resourceful, and proud of their island. Rippingales have lived on Foulness since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. David and Ruth will leave a big hole in our small community, which will be difficult to fill. We send them every good wish for their happiness in this new start to their lives.

### **Safety First in the Country**

We make no excuse for repeating our annual reminder now that the school holidays are approaching. None of us wants to learn of an accident involving any of the island's children.

Do you know where your children are? It's wonderful that they may roam reasonably freely on here, the way we used to be able to do as kids ourselves, and the way you cannot in any current urban environment, but there are some safety first rules that your children need to keep in mind nowadays to ensure their personal safety.

However attractive barns, fields, combines, tractors and trailers may look to them, there is enormous danger for the unwary,

and when children are lost in the world of play they are rarely aware of outside matters.

May we please ask you to remind your children that, especially at this forthcoming very busy time of year on the farms, the fields and farmyards are a place of work and not a playground for your children?

No doubt children brought up in this area will be aware of the dangers if they stop to think, but a reminder from you never comes amiss, as it is all too easy to forget danger when you are playing. If you would kindly stress that they should not be playing in what one might call 'tenanted areas' that will go a long way to reducing the risks they might otherwise run.

If you have children visiting or staying with you from more urban areas, please take the opportunity to have a word with them about safety in the countryside.

**Foulness Conservation and  
Archaeological Society**

The next meeting of the FCAS will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm in the Heritage Centre – a little way hence but please pop

this date in your diary or calendar before it fades from your mind. Do come along and join us if you have any ideas, or thoughts about volunteering – you will be more than welcome.

**Foulness Tide Times  
July 2017**

|        | AM    | height | PM    | height |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Sat 1  | 06.28 | 5.3    | 18.52 | 5.2    |
| Sun 2  | 07.27 | 5.1    | 19.54 | 5.0    |
| Sat 8  | 00.25 | 5.5    | 12.47 | 5.3    |
| Sun 9  | 01.04 | 5.6    | 13.23 | 5.6    |
| Sat 15 | 04.49 | 5.4    | 17.03 | 5.4    |
| Sun 16 | 05.33 | 5.3    | 17.49 | 5.3    |
| Sat 22 | ***   |        | 12.04 | 5.6    |
| Sun23  | 00.23 | 5.9    | 12.57 | 5.8    |
| Sat 29 | 05.05 | 5.6    | 17.22 | 5.5    |
| Sun30  | 05.49 | 5.3    | 18.07 | 5.2    |

**August 2017**

|        |       |     |       |     |
|--------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Sat 5  | 11.40 | 5.2 | ***   |     |
| Sun 6  | 00.02 | 5.4 | 12.25 | 5.4 |
| Sat 12 | 03.50 | 5.7 | 16.04 | 5.7 |
| Sun13  | 04.28 | 5.6 | 16.41 | 5.6 |
| Sat 19 | 10.53 | 5.3 | 23.18 | 5.6 |
| Sun20  | 11.57 | 5.5 | ***   |     |
| Sat 26 | 03.52 | 5.8 | 16.08 | 5.8 |
| Sun27  | 04.29 | 5.6 | 14.44 | 5.6 |

### Thank You

David and Ruth  
would like to thank everyone  
who sent their best wishes  
and gifts on our  
Golden Wedding Anniversary.

### They lived on Foulness

#### Fred Webb

Fred was a member of a well-known Foulness family, a regular church-goer and one who took the responsibility of ringing the bell to call the worshippers to service.

In his early years Fred had the misfortune to lose his forearm in a farming accident. He was fitted with an artificial arm which ended in a hook in the style of Captain Hook. For bell-ringing he managed quite well by twining the rope round the hook.

If you are able to have access to sight of the church porch one of these days you can still see the groove in the stonework caused by the bell rope: still tolling the bell, he would step outside the porch to see if any late-comers were hurrying churchwards.

*Information from John Dobson's  
'Foulness: the Mystery Isle',  
available in the Heritage Centre.*

### Please?

If anyone feels they could take care of the War Memorial, there are four little bushes to keep trimmed and small bits of garden which can have flowers or just be kept weed-free. David and Ruth would be very grateful. If you could let us know at Old Hall Farm Cottage, thank you.

### Have you tried ...

#### Il Palazzo

1 West Road, Westcliff  
SS0 9AU  
(opposite the Palace Theatre)

☎ 01702 341888

We recently tried this restaurant for the first time, on a Thursday evening, early, and found it well-peopled by customers who were enjoying a meal prior to going to the Palace Theatre.

We had thought it wise to ring to book, which was no problem, and we had been asked if we were going to the theatre – they were clearly going to advise us on the optimum time to arrive.

Wonderful surprise as we walked in: we were warmly greeted by a familiar face we had lost touch with – Paul, whom we'd got to

know well from *Romeo and Juliet* in Shoebury and later from *Azzurro* in Westcliff. When he's around we know we are assured of good food and good service.

Il Palazzo is a sister restaurant to the one in the Southchurch Road, which we have enjoyed, and must admit is nearer for us, but there is no problem involved in parking near the Westcliff place. It is open for lunch (10.30 to 2.30) and then opens again at 4.30 till around 11pm. They are happy for you to come early to eat there before the theatre, but it is to be noted that the set lunch-time menu (just £6.95) is understandably not available on the days there is a matinee at the theatre. Still, there's plenty of other choice without breaking the bank.

There is a children's menu which is a mix of pasta and pizza, and would be a good way of encouraging your child to enjoy pasta with a tasty sauce, rather than the perhaps more stodgy pizzas, and certainly better than a burger.

There are three other set menus, named after Italian towns. The Venezia costs £12.95 and you will appreciate that at that price you are offered simple dishes,

mainly pasta and pizza. The Firenza costs £18.95 and gives you a wider choice, and the Roma comes in at £24.95 and you should easily be able to find plenty of things on that to suit your tastes.

The 'specials' for a starter that day were fresh asparagus wrapped in ham and then roasted or King Prawns in garlic sauce, but I chose instead grilled sardines with a most refreshing side salad whose dressing showed off to perfection the good quality olive oil, and it basked in the lemon juice cutting through any possible greasiness of the fish. My partner chose *granchio al forno*, crab claw meat cooked and served with a luscious sauce at £7.95, just crying out for a bit of bread to wipe the dish it was served in.

Determined to have room for a dessert, I kept away from the meat dishes and chose instead monkfish served with a sauce of white wine, cream, onions, tarragon and prawns. Like most of the main course dishes, this came with potatoes and a serving of seasonal vegetables. For me that day it was sauté potatoes, broccoli and carrots. I always find it difficult to find suitable vegetables to go with fish, and so

rarely are peas on offer, despite my thinking that they are the best vegetable for fish. The main course on the opposite side of the table was chosen from the specials list, a seafood lasagna (£12.95), and it went down well, with mussels, cockles, crab meat, shrimps and prawns being identified among the contents.

My partner was delighted to have found in the drinks list a 'proper Italian beer', a Moretti, instead of the ubiquitous Peroni, and this went down so well it was soon followed by another. Guess who was the designated driver? Fortunately a more than acceptable house wine was available by the glass, (three different sizes) so I didn't feel too deprived.

There is a very good choice of desserts and I utterly refute someone's on-line comment that they all come from a major supermarket: all of what I saw passing our table had 'home-made' stamped on them, excluding perhaps the ice-cream. I have never seen profiteroles so enormous and was sorely tempted, but fell for my favourite tiramisu and thoroughly enjoyed it. Despite my warnings that the starter and main course opposite would spoil someone's appetite

for dessert I was proved right, and 'a choice of ice creams' had to be chosen instead of one of the greater delights!

I have to say that the place was spotlessly clean, tables cleaned immediately after the departure of diners, and even a brush and dustpan taken to the floor where necessary. We shall be back there sooner rather than later and have no intention of treating them as they were treated on that Thursday night: a group of 12 had booked, but it was discovered that they had also booked at the sister restaurant and had made up their minds on the night just which of the two they would grace with their presence, leaving the other in the lurch: a table for 12 kept empty needlessly. You couldn't make up the rudeness of some people.

**And finally ....** Under the heading "Lively Debate" a piece taken from the *Poole & Dorset Advertiser*: "For the children there was a bouncy council".

*Items (articles, adverts, 'free to a good home', opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the September newsletter (no August edition) these should be with Denise at Old Hall Farm by 18<sup>th</sup> August.*