

Foulness Island

November 2017

It is staggering to read of the numbers of War Memorials, especially the wooden ones from the First World War, that are ending up in disrepair or being sold in an antiques market because no-one was caring for them. They are apparently even 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 in the churchyard has been beautifully cared for and especial thanks should go to those who have taken under their wing that caring over the years since it was installed. 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 of November there is a particular day to remember. However little we may know of the previous generations in our families (and we seem to have asked in vain for remembrances and stories of the names on our own memorial) we all have cause to be thankful for someone's sacrifice.

Lest We Forget

There will be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard on Sunday November 12th 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

Mrs Doris Burroughs

It cannot be allowed to pass without noting that Mrs Doris Burroughs reached the wonderful milestone of 100 years on October 2nd. This occasion was celebrated with her family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Before moving to Wakering, Doris lived for many years at Rugwood Farm with her husband Frank, her sons John, Peter and Martin and her daughter Valerie.

Derek Shuttlewood

Dinkey and family wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the help and messages of sympathy on the recent loss of Derek.

Your kindness was very much appreciated.

Donations to the Air Ambulance have amounted to £800. Thank you to everyone.

Thank you

We would like to thank Gary Bickford for the wonderful care and attention he gave Leon after he had fallen, before the paramedic arrived.

Thankfully, all ended well.

Joyce and Leon

Foulness Parish Council

Council Matters

October Meeting.

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

It was noted that the procedure to make payments in respect of compensation claims regarding the major power failure on the Island should be finalised by the end of the month.

The Clerk reported that he had written to County Councillor Steptoe with the result of the

response from parishioners to find out whether they would like some form of Post Office Service on the Island. As previously reported, over 25% of parishioners had responded and the response had been 100% in favour of some form of post office services being provided. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to QinetiQ to see if there was a building available for a Post Office and, once their response was received, Councillor Steptoe agreed to take the matter further.

The Clerk also reported on the details of a consultation being arranged by Essex County Council regarding the continued provision of a mobile library service. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this survey by going online to libraries.essex.gov.uk.

The Clerk also reported on the Foulness Island War Memorial Consultation Report.

Finally, the Clerk reported that all Councils are required to agree a risk assessment in each financial year. The Clerk tabled his proposed risk assessment

report for the current year and Council agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.

QinetiQ report

There will be early starts at DAT on 24th to 26th October and 31st October to 2nd November – 8.30am.

The DIO had warned that people trespassing on MOD property could face the risk of eviction.

No power or water interruptions are expected.

QinetiQ is looking at how they could meet residents and were considering a 'surgery' or some other form of consultation.

Havengore Bridge is still out of action to maritime traffic.

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Christmas Greetings

As we have done for a number of years recently, if you would like collectively to try to reduce your carbon footprint and put Christmas Greetings to fellow residents in this newsletter, please leave your chosen message in the letterbox at Old Hall Farm by 18th November – deadline for the December newsletter. This would save a rainforest 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 of this newsletter it won't be turned down!

NB Your Editor will be pushed for time over the next few weeks, and if you had greetings inserted last year she proposes to use the same message this year. If you wish to change the wording, please let Denise know well before the deadline.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

Just a reminder that the next meeting of committee and interested friends will be on

Tuesday November 14th at 7.30pm, and among other things we'll be thinking about plans for next year. If you can help in any way, 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 ready for 2018.

We are pleased to have seen so many visitors this year and to have been able to help a number of them, whether it was in tracing forefathers or learning a bit more about the past in general or the island in particular. So much interest has been taken in the family trees that they are available for consultation every open day — additions and corrections welcomed.

The curse of the commentator

"He may well have held up a picket fence saying *Vote for me*"
Jake Cushway E4

"Nick Skelton, the horse jumper" *Naga Munchetty BBC1*

"Who's sticking their head above the pulpit?"

Dougie Vipond, BBC2 Scotland

"You literally can't even hear your partner think out there"

Michael Carberry Channel 5

"Crouch at the far post puts his hands in his head"

Paul Merson Sky Sports

"You need to put your hands into the FIA's shoes"

Paul di Resta, SkySports

"It was a war of malnutrition tonight"

Tony Bellew Radio 5 Live

Foulness Tide Times November 2017

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 4	11.42	6.0	****	
Sun 5	00.16	6.0	12.34	6.2
Sat 11	05.07	5.0	17.45	5.3
Sun 12	06.25	4.9	19.06	5.2
Sat 18	11.57	5.7	*****	
Sun 19	00.15	5.7	12.30	5.8
Sat 25	03.31	5.1	16.03	5.1
Sun 26	04.15	4.9	16.54	4.9

They lived on Foulness

'Judy' Fitch

In the first half of the last century, 'Judy' was a man on whom many depended. In the days before many of us acquired a car, he was the 'go-to' man for cycle repairs. (It was not unknown for many people to cycle over to Southend, maybe to go to the cinema, or perhaps to do some essential shopping, and this was in the days before the electric bike.) Apart from puncture repairs, he kept a modest amount of accessories and spare parts to hand in his workshop.

With the arrival of radio, in its early years it needed a battery and an accumulator, and the ever-dependable Judy supplied a service by recharging these necessary items. It would be many more years before mains electricity actually arrived on the island. Oh, the joys of going to bed by candlelight!

When he finally acquired a small car, he branched out into the taxi business. He was reliable and his charges were moderate; he had to be or there'd be no repeat business. He was known for

never rushing a journey: it was doubtful if his vehicle ever exceeded 30mph.

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

Have you tried ...

The Shepherd and Dog
Ballards Gore
01702 258658

Well, of course you may have done, but this pub has had a somewhat chequered history and you may not have been for a while. Our recent visit was actually our first time, but it won't be the last.

There is a good-sized car park, well-lit after sunset. There was a very warm welcome as we stepped in, very early in the evening, but we weren't the first there; the regular drinkers had got there before us. It was clear that there is always a good welcome and a good rapport between the staff and the bar customers, witness the chi-iking and the banter we heard later. We were taken through to the restaurant area behind the bar

and at that time of night had a choice of tables, but the place soon began to fill.

On the main menu there are 8 starters, 10 main courses and 6 desserts, one of which is a cheese platter. We were also brought a 'specials board' which we were not rushed into reading. I turned a blind eye to the incorrect *potatoe's*.

Some starters are the simple everyday things you are used to seeing on a menu (soup of the day was tomato, and there was prawn cocktail as well), but my eye was immediately drawn to 'razor clams with pancetta', never having eaten razor clams nor seen them on a menu.

What a brilliant choice, though I say it myself. The clams came served in their shells, sliced with the pancetta, and accompanied by a delicious small salad with a dressing that made me look for bread or a small spoon. My partner chose prawns and chilli and thoroughly enjoyed those too – "a robust chilli sauce" was one comment and they certainly didn't hang around long on the plate.

For my main course I chose local Scotts Hall belly pork and my partner opted for a steak and ale pie especially after he was assured it was a 'proper pie' freshly made, and not one of those concoctions that come in a dish with a lid of puff pastry added. Our vegetables were a pleasure. Rather than spoonsful of various vegetables that clearly come from a packet of frozen stuff, we had a dish of mixed vegetables, just enough for the two of us, including shredded kale, pieces of carrot, shredded green cabbage, dwarf beans and the crispest mange-touts you could desire.

We didn't really need a dessert, but you have to do your research properly for a review, so I queried what flavour the home-made cheesecake was; on being told chocolate I opted for the lemon tart instead and was delighted with my choice: it was an individual tart rather than a slice from a larger one, and came with a cape gooseberry, a strawberry and a separate little pot of cream – I could have chosen ice cream instead. My partner did feel he'd eaten enough and was more restrained, choosing a trio of ice creams.

Most desserts (including profiteroles) were around the £5 mark, with the cheeseboard at £9.95.

There does not appear to be the dreadful piped music that can never suit everybody's taste; the background was the pleasant chatter from the bar, and the murmurings of the diners.

We could find no fault with the service. Staff seem prepared to go the extra mile: by the door there was a bowl of water for dogs, and an umbrella in case of inclement weather getting back to your car.

The pub is not overwhelmed by the restaurant; regulars who just want a pint are well catered for. There are a number of well kept real ales. On this night there was a St George's beer, two from a brewery in Ramsgate and an intriguing purple beer which may appeal to at least one of our readers. This is a proper pub, and CAMRA acknowledges this.

And finally: The Banking Crisis simply explained:

Young Paddy bought a donkey from a farmer for £100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day he drove up and said, "Sorry, son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died." Paddy replied, "Well, then, just give me my money back." The farmer said, "I can't do that; I've already spent it."

Paddy said, "OK then, just bring me the dead donkey." The farmer asked, "What are you going to do with him?" Paddy said "I'm going to raffle him off." The farmer said, "You can't raffle a dead donkey!"

Paddy retorted, "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Paddy and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Paddy said, "I raffled him off like I said I would. I sold 500 tickets at £2 apiece and made a profit of £898." The farmer enquired, "Didn't anyone complain?" Paddy replied, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two pounds back."

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