

Foulness Island

September 2018

At the time of writing, children are still on holiday from school and many people are on holiday from work. This cannot escape you – pick up any newspaper and the headlines scream the fact. *Heatwave continues - Thousand flock to resorts. Busiest day of the year.* I fondly remember a front page cartoon: as a dove holding a tube of sun cream in its beak arrives on Noah's crowded ark, Noah turns to his wife and says, "I think this means that summer is finally coming".

And yet it's not holidays for everyone. Living in an agricultural area, as we do, we cannot help but be aware that most farm workers, weather permitting, are working a 7-day, 80-hour week, doing what must be done at this very moment and cannot be put off 'until tomorrow'. It is to be hoped that most of us are aware of the sheer physical hard work that goes on, more aware than the somewhat insensitive person who asked for a group of walkers to be accompanied round the island in August and, when told why this was not possible, said that he thought farmers just sat in their armchairs and waited for the money to roll in. The long hours come as a result of harvest, the culmination of the agricultural year.

During the past month you'll have seen the fields change minute by minute. The capacity of modern machinery is such that a field can be harvested, disc-harrowed and ready for drilling next year's crop all within a week. The pace of harvest is so much quicker than it was even 40 years ago, when the actual combining of the crop went on almost to the end of September, even with good weather.

But at this time of year there is not only harvest but also forward planning as well. Time must be taken to think ahead, and decide what is to be done next year, in the light of what we have achieved this year. We must stop, take account and go forward determined to do better. A thought for us all?

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In Memoriam

In September we remember

*Carole Addley
Percy (Tom) Belton
Henry Hume
Herbert Hume
Betty Lilley
Beryl Mead
Grace Nicholls
Lilian Rawlings
Ivy Savile*

Gone but not forgotten

Sunday Worship

Our worship this month is on Sunday 16th September, at 9am at Hall Farm. This will be our Harvest Festival. In past years we would have given our gifts of thanks for the bounty of the earth, and these would have been passed on to a local charity to use. Experience at St Nicholas in recent years has caused them to change policy and instead we are asked to give a donation in money rather than in kind to a charity of our choice. If you have cause to be thankful that you do not lack for food or shelter, you may wish to make your own donation.

You will be very welcome if you would like to join us on that Sunday; perhaps you would be kind enough to ring 217836 if you do not normally join us, so we can make sure we have enough room.

Parish Council

Due to an issue regarding the recording of meetings, the Parish Council has had to restructure our monthly meetings.

We are now 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 usually followed at 7.15 pm by a Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

Foulness Residents' Report –
July 2018

Early Starts: 30 July - 2 August
– 08:30 at DAT.

Electricity and Water: No planned works in the near future that will affect the tenanted estate.

Oversized Load: On Wednesday 25 July, a very large load will be travelling on the spine road between Blackgate and ETC. Please consider parking your vehicles on the south side of the road in Churchend to assist with safe transit.

Improving Communication: I've been informed that a new Facebook group has been created for Foulness Islanders. I am enquiring with the administrator to find out if she will provide me with her email address so that I can send her details of anything that may be relevant to/have an impact on the residents so it can be posted on the page.

New Playground Equipment: Cllr Jo Macpherson has approached QinetiQ to ask if it will fund new equipment for the childrens' playground in Churchend. Whilst there is no local budget for this type of sponsorship, I believe it is being looked at by our Corporate Responsibility people in Farnborough. I will provide more information when it becomes available.

Havengore Bridge: Sunday 24 June: We've received a report that a resident intervened when

the road barriers became stuck in the closed position a few weeks ago. Residents are reminded that for their safety and that of others, they are not authorised to operate MOD or QinetiQ assets.

Sunday 8 July: On Sunday 8 July, at approximately 19:10, the bridge was stopped in the vertical, open position by the bridge keeper who was concerned that it was malfunctioning. The on-call engineer attended, assisted by a local colleague, and the bridge was lowered and the roadway restored at approximately 20:19. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but the bridge was tested on the previous Thursday with no issues reported. It is unfortunate that an ambulance was delayed, but QinetiQ has made all emergency services fully aware of the potential for this eventuality and encouraged them to consider contingency plans.

Road Works – Saturday 7 July: We apologise for the disruption caused due to the roadworks on Saturday 7 July. Whilst the forthcoming works were reported to the Parish Council on 13 June, the intent at that time was to manage traffic so it could

continue to pass. A late request from the contractor to completely close a section for 20 minutes was agreed but in the event, the hot weather prevented the resin from setting which extended the duration of the closure. We are aware that the contractors were not prepared with the appropriate traffic management and diversion signage and that some residents and visitors were inconvenienced and this is being addressed. Whilst we can understand the frustration that this caused, we were concerned to hear reports of several incidences of residents driving dangerously around the road block, narrowly missing workers and shouting verbal abuse. It is regretful that this work did not undergo better planning and contingency for the hot weather, but the works are to improve the condition of the roads that we all use and so we ask you to remember that the workers are just doing their duty. Thank you.

Parish Council

The Parish Council held its meeting on 11th July 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm.

Reports were received from County Cllr Mike Steptoe and District Cllr Daniel Efde.

The meeting approved the payment requests for June/July 2018. The Council also noted the receipts in June 2018. Copies of these documents can be found on our website.

The meeting re-addressed the proposal that a gift be given to the Island's First Responder who had recently retired after eighteen years' service. It had been suggested that this should be done via the Chair's allowance and the Clerk pointed out that the amount that would need to be voted to the Chair to do it this way would be £62 to make allowance for the tax payable. It was agreed that the original proposal that this be done under Section 137 should stand. The Clerk reported that he had received an anonymous donation of £70 to be added to the amount being paid by the Council.

The Clerk reported that he had prepared a schedule of actions to be taken to comply with the new Data Protection requirements and the Council would be fully compliant by the next Council meeting in October.

The Clerk also reported that he would be circulating a new bank mandate to Councillors for them to complete and return to him.

The Clerk advised that Jeff Stacey, the Emergency Planning and Business Community Officer at Rochford District Council would be attending the November meeting to give a presentation on Emergency Planning for Foulness Island.

Council agreed to continue the lease in respect of the play area. Council also agreed to surrender the lease in respect of the site of the old village hall.

There are no meetings in August and there will be an informal meeting with QinetiQ on 12th September 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 10th October 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm. This will be preceded by an informal meeting with QinetiQ which will commence at 7.00 pm.

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

John Watson, Parish Clerk

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Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The next meeting of the FCAS will be on September 11th at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre. Please come along – you will be very welcome.

We've just about got our breath back after the very busy open day at the beginning of August when it seemed the whole world and his wife came to see us. If you called in on that day to have a look at the wonderful Classic Cars you will know just how busy we were. We were grateful for the volunteers who turned to and put their hand to whatever needed doing. We really would be pleased to hear of anyone, new resident or well-established, who would be able to offer a helping hand in the kitchen on open days. No particular skill needed, just a pleasant smile to cope with the public. If you can't even manage a smile in this heat (written early August) an

hour's washing up won't call for any major show of talent!

Foulness – Did you know?

Lodge Farm

The current building dates from about 1810 though it is very likely there was a building on the site long before that – during some work carried out a number of years ago some hand-made nails were found, and it is probable that some of the timberwork came from an earlier building.

Like other farm houses on Foulness, provision was made for the labour force that lived on site. There was a room (now the farm office) which was always known as “the men’s kitchen” and above that was “the men’s bedroom”. Lodge Farm has two staircases and although there is free passage between all the rooms it was always possible to close “the men’s” area away from the rest of the house.

Early in the 20th century the land was farmed by Walter Cater, who served St Mary’s Church well, but then it passed to the Belton family where it currently remains; the fifth generation of Beltons is living there now.

Rotary Club Bike Ride

A reminder that this event takes place on Sunday September 9th. If you are new to the island you may wish to refer to the notes in the July magazine.

Free to a good home

The following are available, together or separately, to a good home:

Lady's black slippers, size 4

Fondue set

Alarm clock

The above are brand new.

Also available:

Binoculars in case

Shire horse ornament

Interested in any of these items?
Please contact Denise on 217836 who can give you further details.

Ploughing Match

We know that many of you who read this newsletter like to get to the annual ploughing match of the Rochford Hundred Agricultural Society, whether it be to look at the heavy horses, wander round the display stands or catch up with friends seen all too rarely. We must hope that by the time this newsletter reaches you we have had some rain to soften

the ground – we would hate to see this event cancelled again, making it three years out of four it's been cancelled.

This year's gathering will be at North Benfleet Hall, Wickford, SS12 9JR on Saturday September 22nd, starting at around 9am, but there should be something of interest for you up to about 2.30 – 3pm. Apart from the various ploughing classes, in which we offer our local entries the best of luck, there will be trade stands, craft stalls, as well as the afore-mentioned heavy horses. Fewer than 30 Suffolk Punch horses were foaled in this country last year, so they need all the support they can get.

Severn Trent Water Rate Invoices

Writing this today, 5th August, I have not had my July Water Rate Invoice. Have you received yours yet or are we all to chase Severn Trent? The reason for the delay in issuing the July invoices is that in their whole company they have only one person who can provide the information to produce the monthly invoices. What a firm!

Have any of you noticed that from, and including the June

invoice, Severn Trent seem to have put their prices up, not by very much, but have any of us received any notification that they are increasing their prices? Contact Severn Trent and ask them why the prices have gone up. I'm waiting for a response.

*Marilyn Huskins
8 Courtsend*

Foulness Tide Times September 2018

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 1	04.21	5.4	16.34	5.5
Sun 2	04.58	5.3	17.14	5.4
Sat 8	11.55	5.6	****	
Sun 9	00.16	5.9	12.45	5.8
Sat 15	04.33	5.6	16.49	5.6
Sun 16	05.12	5.2	17.31	5.3
Sat 22	11.30	5.2	23.55	5.4
Sun 23	****		12.12	5.4
Sat 29	03.20	5.7	15.35	5.8
Sun 30	03.55	5.5	16.11	5.7

Have you tried ...

For my wife's birthday I booked a table at Colenzo's Restaurant. This is located on the sea front near the Kursaal. It used to be called Bourgee and when we visited the menus were still pretty similar. You can park for

free by the Sealife Centre after 6 o'clock.

I didn't expect the restaurant to be busy; the night that I had booked was a night that England was playing in the World Cup. There were just three tables occupied and the two waiters were very attentive.

For starters I had the tempura battered soft shell crab which was excellent. My wife had the shredded hoisin duck, not served in those little pancakes; just a plate with plenty of duck, sauce and a salad.

For my main course I had a really good steak with chips and accompanying vegetables. It was cooked just the way I like it.

My wife had one of their premium burgers which she enjoyed.

For desserts we just found some room for some ice cream which was served with some fresh berries.

When the bill came I was pleasantly surprised that there was an opening offer of a 20% discount. Unfortunately I think this has expired by now.

We certainly intend to go back to Colenzo's and see what it is like on a busier night. I hope they manage to maintain the excellent standards that we found on our first visit.

Colenzo's
1 Eastern Esplanade
Southend-on-sea,
Essex SS1 2ER
01702 593059

And finally ... A car was involved in a serious accident in the village centre, attracting a large crowd. A passing solicitor, familiar with the current financial opportunities presented by such occasions, tried to get nearer to those involved. Being such a smart guy, he started shouting loudly, "Let me through, let me through – I'm the son of the victim."

The crowd made way for him.

Lying in front of the car was a donkey.

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