

Foulness Island

September 2019

As we approach the autumn and then winter, we might like to consider this old prayer, which dates from the eighteenth century, at least. It is of English origin, but its author is unknown.

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
and also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
with sense enough to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
to keep the good and pure in sight,
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled,
but finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bound,
that does not whimper, whine or sigh,
Don't let me worry overmuch
about the fussy thing called I.
Give me a sense of humour, Lord;
give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness out of life
and pass it on to other folk.

Mrs Peggy Self

It is with sadness that we note the recent passing of Mrs Peggy Self at the age of 90 after a long period of ill health.

Peggy was born in Rochford but moved house a good deal as a child. She met Dennis in 1947 and they married soon after, in a double wedding ceremony with her sister. Peggy and Den spent all their married life on Foulness.

She was so proud of the grandchildren and greatgrandchildren, Colin and Yvonne's families.

She had a good sense of humour; she would need to have, married to a man who said he saw no reason to go out for a meal as there was always a good meal on the table at home. Seriously, her apple pies were said to be legendary.

She enjoyed socialising, particularly bingo and bowls, and going on holidays, often with the local OAP club. She was happy to enter a glamorous grandmother competition and particularly pleased to come first on one occasion.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, Colin and Yvonne, and their families as they struggle to come to terms with her loss.

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

Mrs Glynis MacIntyre

The family of the late Mrs Glynis MacIntyre would like to thank everyone who generously made donations to the designated charities in memory of Glynis.

We were pleased to see so many of her friends at the service and have been touched by the messages of condolence and offers of help we have received at this sad time.

Foulness Parish Council

Due to the 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

QinetiQ Report

Early starts: these will be on 23-25 July, 08:30 at DAT

Smoke Rounds: on 7 & 8 August – a trial at Q Battery will involve munitions designed to emit smoke – it is not an emergency.

Road closure: there will be a road closure between Jerrywood and Taylor's Hut scheduled for 24 July with a backup day of 25 July. This will be for a one-off shot. There could be a short delay to traffic.

Power Interruptions – Thursday 4 July: The intermittent power interruptions last Thursday afternoon resulted from problems encountered by UK Power Networks during routine maintenance on switchgear on Potton Island. The entire Range and some surrounding areas were affected – there was an Everbridge alert to let residents know that the issue was external.

Bridgekeeper Competence: We are waiting for certificates of training attendance from Fairfield and these will be given to the bridgekeepers as proof of competency. The guards have been briefed on the updated competency of bridgekeepers to manually lower the bridge and raise the road barriers.

Parking at The Rectory: DIO wrote to the owners of The Rectory on 3 July. They are permitted to park vehicles on an area licensed to them, but have been asked not to park over the footpath and on the grass verge between the footpath and the road. They have also been asked to remove any vehicles, (including the boat and trailer) which are on MOD land outside the licensed area.

Bridge: Currently the bridge is not working due to a major fault.

Roads: There are no works planned this month: minor pot hole repairs are still being planned.

Ditches: A&B ditching works are in the process of being planned and areas and dates will be shared with tenant farmers in due course by direct communication;

Tree Works or Ground Maintenance Impacts: There are no planned works affecting the Let Estate.

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

Power Impacts: There are works planned which will only affect Great Burwood Farm and Cottages. Tenants will be advised direct.

Let Estate: Funding has now been released and QQ are able to process work. All reactive issues will be attended to by our Service Provider (EMCOR). Major Projects are still being planned with a view of work starting in September.

Statutory Maintenance: Fixed wire testing and Gas servicing is continuing direct by QQ's service provider (EMCOR). EMCOR will be on contact direct regarding these appointments.

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

Parish Council

The Parish Council was due to hold its meeting on 10th July but, unfortunately and due to holidays, the meeting was not quorate and could not be held. The business due to be conducted will be carried forward to the September meeting.

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

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Have things changed in 20 years?

Snippets from our magazine

Harvest Festival brought a visiting congregation from St Lawrence Eastwood and donated produce was taken to Fairhavens. There was a farm tour for the visitors, and the Harvest Supper later in the month was a resounding success.

They must have been getting desperate for a theme for the beer tasting – it involved 'beers with pretty labels'.

Over £1500 was raised for and by the Amenities Club at the summer fete, after a lot of hard work.

The Post Office advertised its move to The Stables, with a range of services that the shop would offer.

There was a successful sponsored walk round the island – yes, right round, 15 miles – and money raised was shared between the Amenities Club and Imperial Cancer Research.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The next meeting of the FCAS will be on Tuesday 3rd September in the Heritage Centre. 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

September 2019

	AM		PM	
Sun 1	02.07	6.3	14.30	6.2
Sat 7	06.50	4.9	19.19	5.0
Sun 8	08.01	4.7	20.38	4.9
Sat 14	01.12	5.7	13.26	5.6
Sun 15	01.45	5.7	13.57	5.7
Sat 21	04.51	5.1	17.10	5.3
Sun 22	05.36	4.9	18.03	5.1
Sat 28	00.13	6.0	12.39	5.9
Sun 29	01.00	6.2	13.22	6.1

Rotary Club Bike Ride

A reminder that this event takes place on Sunday 10th September. If you are new to the island you may wish to refer to the notes in the July magazine.

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 of this event the weather has been such that the ground is at its best for ploughing – at least we haven't had the drought conditions of last year; let's hope the day isn't spoiled by the downpour on the day that had to be endured last year in contrast.

This year's gathering will be on Saturday 28th September at Little Stambridge Hall, SS4 1EW, a bit closer to home this year. The farm is on your left as you leave Rochford on the way to Stambridge.

Events will kick off at around 9am, but there should be something of interest for you up to about 2.30pm. Apart from the various ploughing classes (in which we offer our local entries the best of luck) there will be trade stands and craft stalls, as well as the aforementioned heavy horses. Fewer than 30 Suffolk Punches were foaled in this country last year, so they need all the support they can get.

Have you read ...

A Forceful Thrust *by Penny Trait*
Smart Black Birds *by Jack Dore*
In the Red *by Penny Less*
The Gift of Movement

by Mo Billity

The Uncultured Oaf *by Phil Istyne*
The Times of James I

by Jack O'Beyan

The Hostile Woman

by Anna Mossity

The Cost of Japanese Martial Arts

by Ken Doe

Thanks to Roy Eighteen for these

Have you tried ...

Oldhams of Westcliff?

13 West Road
Westcliff, SS0 9AU
☎ 346736

This business has been in Westcliff for over 50 years so they must be doing something right. Indeed we read recently that they have been awarded a prestigious ranking for the third time in three years.

There is a restaurant and a takeaway on the same site and to our mind if you want good fish and chips there is no other place to go. We've discussed it many a time and we cannot think of any way to get fish and chips back to Foulness without them going hideously soggy, so the only solution is to eat them where they're cooked.

The restaurant is open from 11.30 to 9.30 Mondays to Saturdays and from 12 to 9pm on Sundays, with the takeaway section staying open 15 minutes later each day.

Being in Westcliff not too long ago we found our steps heading to Oldham's and we didn't regret one minute of it. If you want basic 'fish and chips' there are various offers on the displayed menus, starting with 'cod, chips, roll & butter and cuppa' with a number of variations on that theme, including 2 different fish, chips and salad for £14.

There's a 'proper menu' offering a wider range of choices. Starters include an honestly labelled Heinz soup, squid rings, Tiger prawns and BBQ spare ribs. We chose to avoid a starter 'cos we already had an eye on the dessert menu.

The whole point of going there is the main course with choice of various fish with chips and salad garnish, ranging from £11.50 to £16. With a nod to the eco-warriors they assure you that their fish is taken from the most sustainable sources possible. I chose a wing of skate (middle cut more expensive) and the batter on it was to die for – I don't think I've ever had better. I tried not to eat too much, so as not to over-fill myself, but having honestly had enough I still found myself nibbling on the

batter I'd put to one side. Condiments are the norm, with sauces coming in little plastic sachets - no pretence there. Squeezing out the tartare sauce I was hard put to it to find any little bits in the mayonnaise, but what the heck! I made do with the vinegar and the lemon that came on the plate.

The plate itself was on the hot side of warm, and they might do better to put the plated salad in a bowl and take the chips from the bowl and put them on the warm plate. Cooked salad ain't too appetising. The chips come in generous portions.

There are various classic extras which include mushy peas and a wally. There's a wide choice of vegetarian alternatives, but somehow I can't see myself getting excited about a spicy beanburger. There are basic meat dishes on offer and various pies and I guess you'd have to be hungry (but certainly getting your money's worth) if you chose 'quarter of a chicken with BBQ ribs, chips and side salad' all for £11.50.

There are various beverages on offer to go with the chosen meal, and plenty of people will order fish, chips, roll & butter and a cuppa tea. Oldham's is licensed,

and there is a limited choice of beers, wines by the bottle or by two sizes of glass.

We did have room for a dessert - there's nothing like careful planning. There's not a wide choice, but simple things like ice creams or apple pie. We went for the star of the show, knickerbocker glory, and loved every bit of it. It would be sacrilege to say it was the best part of the meal, but it came pretty close. Unlike some places, the spoon was long enough, with a proper-shaped bowl for the job, and you could get right to the bottom of the serving container - well, you can hardly call it a dish, when it's more like a flower vase.

The only downside of the place is the echoing noise. The structure doesn't lend itself to a calming ambience, (too many hard surfaces), there is background music and customers tend to shout to make themselves heard above the noise and the next-door table. Still, many of the couples seemed to be absorbed in their mobile phones, so maybe they had nothing intelligent to say anyway.

The front counter, or takeaway, side of the business offers almost as much choice as the restaurant, at considerably lower prices, and always seems to be busy. My skate was £14.50 but takeaway price,

(no VAT and no doubt a smaller piece of fish) is £7.50. Various chicken dishes are available, as are Peter's Pies. There are jacket potatoes and various side dishes. It's a darn good fish and chip shop, pure and simple. If you want fancier, you go elsewhere – and pay for it.

Waking Autumn Show

If this is printed and delivered in time, there's just space to remind you of the Show on Bank Holiday Monday - details in the Gt Waking Community Newsletter. The flowers and vegetables are always something to admire, so if you can find the time go and see what you might aspire to.

And finally Waiting between Bishop Stortford and Harlow to catch speeding drivers, a police officer saw an old farm Land Rover pottering along the M11 motorway at eleven miles an hour. He drove his patrol car onto the inside lane behind the Land Rover, turned on his blue light and pulled the vehicle over.

Approaching the car, he noticed that there were five old ladies inside, two in the front seats and three in the back – all wide-eyed and white as the proverbial sheet.

The driver seemed a little confused and said to the policeman, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Madam", the officer replied, "You weren't speeding but you should know that driving a lot slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

The farmer's wife (for so she was) replied, "Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly – 11 miles per hour."

The police officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explained carefully to her that "M11" was the road number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the farmer's wife smiled lopsidedly, and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Madam, I have to ask if everyone in the car is OK? Your passengers seem awfully shaken, and they haven't uttered a sound," the officer said.

"Oh they'll be all right in a minute, officer," she replied. "We've just come off the A120!"

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.