

Foulness Island

April 2018

When Jesus was born at Christmas, the angels sang of His arrival here on earth as Good News. But when they declared that, it was not simply because Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, was now in our midst. It was because of what Jesus would teach and accomplish while He was here in His earthly ministry and ultimately through His death and resurrection. He demonstrated as no other human being before or since what it meant truly to love humankind by giving His life for us to allow us a way back into a relationship with God and, moreover, give us the gift and hope of eternal life.

It's true that the Easter story is reasonably well known, but perhaps not as well as the Christmas story, yet its meaning and consequence are far more significant. It was and is a life-changing event as the testimony of Christians down the ages can testify. We can all enjoy the trappings of Easter with its Easter bonnets and chocolate eggs and fluffy chicks but we do so in the shadow of the main event of Easter.

As you enjoy these things, you may give some thought to a God who shows His love for us then and since; you may pause on Good Friday to remember Jesus dying on the cross. Then on Easter Day think of Jesus rising from the dead and that He is the reason for this season, He and all He did for us.

In Memoriam

*In April
we remember*

John Abbott

Jim Dixon

Harold Hume

Gerald Key

Peter Shinn

Margaret Tillbrook

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness 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 informal meeting is followed at 7.30pm by a Parish Council Meeting.

QinetiQ report

The following report was given by QinetiQ at 7.00pm on 14th March:

There will be early starts (8.30am) at DAT on 15th, 16th and 20th March, 2018.

Footpath 1b will be partially closed from 5th April until approximately the end of June 2018.

A statutory emergency exercise was held on 22nd February in the vicinity of White City. Problems occurred with some roads being blocked. Lessons had been learned and would be incorporated in the next exercise.

There had been further problems with Havengore Bridge which had been closed to Marine Traffic for some three weeks. It was hoped that this would be resolved on 15th March.

Work would be commencing on 15th March on trying to clear the roadside gullies between Landwick and the Jerry. Residents were asked to report any standing water on the roads, indicative of a drainage problem.

Discussions had been held with the contractors responsible for the HV project and assurances had been received that Parishioners would not be impacted.

There would be power disruptions between 9.00am and 12 noon on 19th and 20th March. It was understood that these interruptions would only be for periods of 15 minutes.

Parishioners thanked QinetiQ and farm staff for the work done on snow clearance on the island roads.

Questions were asked as follows:

Who had given authority for Essex Fire Service to cold call on Residents?

Was the blocking of a footpath by sandbags an official closure?

Why red flags were flying on the evening of the meeting?

The repair of the Nazewick road was raised.

It was noted that these meetings would be held monthly commencing at 7pm. These would continue to take place in months where there could not be a Council meeting.

Council matters

The Parish Council held its meeting on 14th March 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.

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

The dates of the Parish Council meetings for 2018/19 were agreed as follows:

April 2018: 18th (third Wednesday)
May 2018: No meeting
June 2018: 13th
July 2018: 11th
August 2018: 8th
September 2018: No meeting
October 2018: 10th
November 2018: 14th
December 2018: 12th
January 2019: No meeting
February 2019: 13th
March 2019: 13th.

Discussions regarding the possible provision of Post Office facilities on the island continue to be ongoing.

The Clerk reported that tender documents in respect of maintenance of the Parish Burial Ground had been issued. The closing date for the receipt of sealed bids was 29th March 2018

and these bids would be opened by the Clerk together with Councillors Giles and Green on 5th April. A recommendation would then be made to Council.

The Clerk also reported that the ongoing problems regarding the new Data Protection requirements had still not been resolved.

No County or District Councillors were present to give a report.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 18th April 2018 commencing at 7.30pm. This will be preceded by an informal meeting with QinetiQ which commences at 7.00pm.

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

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Window cleaner

With all the wind and snow blowing on them, you may feel your windows need more attention than you can give them.

You can contact Rob on
☎ 07494012667 or email at
Robadam391@gmail.com

Foulness – Did you know?

Priestwoods

In the late 17th century Foulness had passed into the hands of Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham. From a survey prepared for him at that time we learn that at Priestwood 90 acres out of a total of 275 were considered to be for arable use. It was at that time that another 37 acres were 'inned' and added to the holding.

Priestwood Marsh was first mentioned in records in 1308 but there was probably no farmhouse until the 16th century – certainly there is mention of a building there in 1509.

The actual farmhouse dates from about 1700, with later additions and some restoration work by the

MoD, and from the road always looks an attractive building.

When the Spine Road was being constructed last century, some of the work gangs were billeted in huts at Priestwoods Farm.

**Foulness Tide Times
April 2018**

	AM	height	PM	height
Sun 1	01.31	5.9	13.51	6.0
Sat 7	05.10	5.1	17.25	4.9
Sun 8	05.56	5.1	18.16	4.6
Sat 14	***		12.11	5.5
Sun 15	00.29	5.3	12.49	5.6
Sat 21	04.23	5.8	16.49	5.3
Sun 22	05.13	5.5	17.43	5.1
Sat 28	***		12.10	5.7
Sun 29	00.29	5.7	12.51	5.8

In like a lion!

Residents are very grateful to the farm workers and QinetiQ staff who worked long and hard to keep our roads useable during the snap of bad weather at the end of February/beginning of March.

**Foulness Conservation and
Archaeological Society**

The Heritage Centre re-opens on Sunday April 1st, Easter Day, for the first of this year's Open Days. If you have visitors for the day, this could well be somewhere to bring them to see a bit more of the Island.

We shall be open from 12 till 4pm and if you are new to Foulness we would be pleased to see you.

If you feel you can offer us a little of your time we shall be equally pleased to see you – we can always find something for you to do!

The curse of the commentator

'Martin Schanche's car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical.'

Murray Walker

'This is a truly international field, no Britons involved.'

David Coleman

'You had to wait four days for your final; what were those 48 hours like?'

John Inverdale

'It's opaque; you can see right to the bottom of the pool.'

Bob Ballard

'This will inevitably pour fire on the flames.'

Dan Roan

'You'll wake up in the morning and there'll be a beautiful sunset.'

Matthew Upson

Have you tried ...

Shore House (lately)?
Ness Road SS3 9HQ

01702 292892

I guess you've been there once in a while. I do remember going there years ago with my parents and then it seemed the height of sophistication in an earlier incarnation. How our tastes and expectations have changed – we have become used to a nicely presented good meal, rather than run-of-the-mill 'grub'.

Still, they must be doing something right and appealing to a certain clientele, or they wouldn't have stayed there so long. We heard that on one occasion at least when the poppy display was *in situ* last year they actually ran out of food, though you can't be sure if that's the

truth. I did hear of one group visiting on a Saturday last year when those huge spaces inside were so crammed that the foursome was told there would be an hour's wait for a table.

We went there mid-week in the early spring and had no problem whatsoever in getting a table. The welcome was very pleasant and gave the impression they were actually pleased to see us. Maybe they welcomed something to do, as some waitresses seemed to be vying to serve at some of the tables: "Oh, you've pinched my customers."

Looking at the extensive menu (and it's available to muse over on-line) you can see that if that type of 'pub chain food' appeals to you, you can have 'a right good pig-out' – a vulgar phrase but so expressive when we first heard it used!

We weren't asked if we had been before (does a gap of 40-50 years count as 'before'?) but we did know about going to the salad bar, and fortunately we had passed it on the way to our table, so I wasn't left blindly searching the many areas.

Having gone there just for a meal, rather than a wander through several elegant courses, we were happy with the evening set meal of two courses, a mains and either a starter or a dessert, from a somewhat limited choice. I used the salad as a sort of starter, and the variety of tastes and textures available made a pleasant start to the meal.

I fancied a steak for my main course for which there was a £3 supplement, but it was cooked exactly how I liked, and eating there meant I didn't have a fat-spattered stove to clean afterwards. When I ordered, I was taken aback to be told they had no mushrooms to go with the fries, beefsteak tomato and battered onion rings. How hard can it be to have enough mushrooms in stock? I opted for peas as an alternative, but regretted it; I can't prove I was given tinned peas, but I've never in my life eaten freshly-cooked frozen peas with a taste and appearance like that. The 'beefsteak tomato' proved to be a quarter of a tomato, a fact which needs no comment.

Shore House is well-gearred for families, witness the equipment

clearly labelled 'bottle warmer' (not for the beer, I presume) and the stack of high chairs easily available.

My partner pointed out that there was one beer on tap; clearly not a place for serious beer drinkers. When he went off in search of the 'facilities' he found rooms simply labelled 'toilets' so headed there. One was 'Ladies' and one was 'disabled/nappy-changing'. He never did find the Gents but I'm sure there's one there somewhere.

There were two desserts to choose from, and we both opted for what amounts to an ice-cream with sauce, doll it up how you may with fancy names. If I say that I came home feeling that the ice-cream with toffee sauce was the best part of my meal you may draw your own conclusions.

If you have access to broadband, putting "Shore House" in the search engine will bring up their website if you make sure you click on the Shoeburyness entry. You'll find you can book a table online or you can even order a takeaway from your desk, should you be so inclined.

And finally ... found in the *Daily Telegraph*: "I found Horace the farmer in his usual place in the corner of the saloon bar of our local pub, *The Green Man*. 'I see you have your pig with you,' I remarked. The sow, Chantelle, beside him on the pew, genteelly sipped her Bloody Mary.

'I have to bring her,' he said. 'She's rotten company but it's this animal welfare nonsense. I'm thinking of giving up pigs; there's not much left of the subsidy after I've paid out on her cocktails, and cheese and onion crisps, and her weekly massage.'

'So how is farming these days, with all the Michael Gove reforms?'

'Hard,' said Horace, taking a gulp of his bitter and wiping his mouth with the back of his hand. 'Never a day off and out in all weathers memorising the first names of every one of my 147 Friesians. Then rounding up the ramblers, feeding them and making sure they all have their kale smoothies.'

'What's your main crop this year, Horace?'

'School parties. I'm planning for 450 of them. You get a decent return on school parties. And I've planted 40 acres of nasturtiums. Not much call for them but they make a good background for the selfies.'

'I hear you did well in the country agricultural fair', I said.

'Not bad. A pair of my hikers got best in show. The judges look for nice, well-developed calf muscles, a good conformation of backside, a firm compact rucksack and a neat over-the-style technique. I also got bronze in the aesthetically pleasing dungheap class, and one of my school parties was runner-up in the nature trail trials.'

'Can I get you another pint?'

The old boy stated glumly into his empty glass. 'Better not,' he said. 'I've got to get this pig home. She doesn't like to miss *The Archers*.'

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