
Foulness Island

December 2018

With the shortest day of the year fast approaching, we are aware of the enveloping darkness that surrounds us. Gone is the evening light that brought life and freedom. Instead refuge is sought behind closed doors and drawn curtains as we try to shut out the pervading darkness and create an oasis of warmth for 'just us'. The noise of a passing car, its light momentarily flashing across the curtain, reminds us of a world outside. Despite closed doors and drawn curtains we are part of a world outside, a world that we must take notice of, whatever happens.

A light to the soul, the Christmas story is of God who, motivated by love, comes in search of us. The Gospel writers Luke and Matthew tell of local shepherds and men from the east who, enlightened by God, went in search of and found the new-born Christ. Christmas and the Christ-child come to us as a sign of God with us, bringing light to our darkness, offering new hope and life.

With the troubles and uncertainties that currently face the world God knows we need Christmas. Not the Christmas of diversion but the truth of its message. If we are willing to grasp this gift then perhaps we will awaken to a better world and one which aspires to God's intentions.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas.

In Memoriam

*In December
we remember*

*Mick Barker
Dorothy (Jackie) Belton
Cyril Bird
Bill (Wilkie) Lilley
Rev Brian Shannon
Dennis Self
Barbara Taylor
John (Jake) Willsmer
Joyce Willsmer*

Gone but not forgotten

The Chairman, Councillors and
Clerk to the Parish Council
would like to wish everyone
a very Happy Christmas and
offer good wishes for 2019

The Trustees and Committee
of the
Foulness Island Heritage Centre
would like to take this
opportunity to wish all members
a very Happy Christmas.

Mary Self
would like to wish
all her Foulness friends
a Very Happy Christmas and
all the best for the New Year.

Ann
would like to wish all neighbours
and friends
a Happy Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.

Peter and Denise
wish all their friends a
Happy Christmas
and a healthy 2019.

Peace and happiness
Mary Jefford

A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our neighbours
from Bryan and June.

Hope everyone has
a Happy Christmas
From Peter and Rachel,
Amelia and Isaac

Rita would like to wish everyone
a Happy Christmas and
a happy and healthy 2019.

Wishing you all every happiness
& good health for this Christmas
season and all year long.
Thea

Wishing everyone
a very happy Christmas and
a happy and peaceful New Year
from Joyce and Leon.

Mary, Peter and Toby
would like to wish all our
Foulness friends
a very merry Christmas,
with good health and happiness
in 2019.

Milly's Deli

in Leigh-on-sea is offering
a 20% discount
for Foulness Islanders
on all orders from
their Christmas brochure.
Email nazewick@gmail.com
for a copy.

Ben, Laura, Millie and Bonnie
wish everybody
a wonderful Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Christmas Worship

We shall be meeting on Sunday
16th December at Hall Farm at
9am. You will be very welcome.
If you can't make that date, there
is *Beer and Carols* at the Castle in
Little Wakering at 7pm on 21st
December, or *Carols by*

Candlelight at St Nicholas on 23rd
December at 6.30pm.

Parish Council

Due to an issue regarding the
recording of meetings the Parish
Council have 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.

QinetiQ notes

Early start (8.30) at DAT on 15th
November and on 5th and 6th
December.

Early start (8.00) at Battery on
29th November.

Roadworks on 14th December.
Expect delays.

Havengore Bridge will be open to
marine traffic on 19th November.
Expect road delays.

There will be bridge maintenance
on 21st and 22nd November.
Again expect delays.

National Power have begun work and this will be completed by Christmas.

Street lights are being inspected and residents are asked to report, with location and light number, any lights not working.

QinetiQ will be closed for Christmas from Friday 21st December, reopening on Wednesday 2nd January.

(QinetiQ notes prepared by Nicki Uden, Community Liaison Officer.)

Parish Council notes

The Parish Council held its meeting on 14th November 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm.

No District Councillors were able to attend.

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018.

The meeting then received a talk from Jeff Stacey, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer, Commercial Services, Rochford District Council, on the arrangements in place should there be an emergency on Foulness Island. Jeff gave his contact numbers as 01702 546366 (office hours) or 01268 546317 (out of hours) should parishioners of the Island have any concerns.

The meeting approved the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2018 and the Accounts for the six months to 30th September 2018. Council also approved the payment requests for the period October/November 2018 noting the donation of £50 to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance which had been approved at the previous meeting. Council also noted the receipts for the same period.

There was nothing to report about the possible provision of a Post Office on the Island.

The meeting approved the Risk Management Assessment for the 2018-19 Council year.

The Clerk reported that he had received an acknowledgment from James Duddridge MP in response to his letter expressing concern about the Havengore Bridge being stuck in an open position. Mr Duddridge had referred the matter to the Minister of State for Defence and would respond further when he had received an answer.

The Clerk asked the Council to consider whether they should have dedicated e-mail addresses for communicating on Council business. It was decided that this was not necessary.

County Councillor Mike Steptoe will be attending the December Parish Council meeting with a senior member of the management team from Rochford District Council. Parishioners are requested to let the Clerk know of any questions they would like to raise with either of them.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 12th December 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm. This will be preceded by an informal meeting with QinetiQ which will commence at 7.00 pm.

The Council will not be meeting in January.

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

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Website: www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk

Access to Public Right of Way routes on Foulness Island

QinetiQ reminds residents that Public Right of Way routes in range areas are closed when the

Red Flags are flying and the MOD byelaws are invoked. If you're new to Foulness Island or unsure of the location of PROW routes, please refer to the map provided with the Residents Guide recently distributed to all tenants. The information can also be found on Ordnance Survey maps and on our website www.shoeburyness.qinetiq.com

Thank You

Mary Self would like to thank all her dear friends from Foulness and Wakering for their lovely cards and kind thoughts on the death of her brother Peter Simmons.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

“Foulness- the years of change”

If you had meant to call at the Heritage Centre a couple of weeks ago to get a copy of the above book and it slipped your mind, you can call at Hall Farm to get a copy at £7.50 – it would make a useful present for a friend who has moved from the island. Don't leave it too late – copies will be more expensive next year.

Free to a good home

With the weather as it has been lately, it's not too late to call at Hall Farm for a few free plants – those verbena I wrote of last month. They're easy to move and as they come free you can enhance your garden at no cost. You're very welcome!

Denise

Foulness Tide Times December 2018

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 1	06.18	5.0	19.00	5.2
Sun 2	07.37	5.0	20.15	5.3
Sat 8	00.20	5.7	12.35	5.8
Sun 9	00.55	5.7	13.13	5.8
Sat 15	04.34	4.9	17.15	4.8
Sun 16	05.30	4.7	18.15	4.7
Sat 22	11.30	5.8	12.59	5.8
Sun 23	***		12.17	6.0
Sat 29	04.50	5.4	17.26	5.4
Sun 30	05.53	5.2	17.26	5.3

Foulness – Did you know?

Rugwood and Burwoods

The farm or marsh of Rugwood is first mentioned in 1246 and by the late 1400s it had been incorporated into the manor of Foulness.

By the middle 1500s Rugwood, or certainly the land around it, was in the hands of the family of Lord Rich. They owned a large area of land, mostly in Essex, and at that time the rent for Rugwood was recorded as £15 for the farm or marsh.

In the middle 1800s, when a record was made of the uses the land was being put to, Rugwood was among those with the highest proportion of pasture.

Rugwood farmhouse dates from about 1750; this house replaced an earlier one on the site.

Although the land that eventually became the island of Foulness was used mainly for sheep pasture at first, it is recorded that by the middle 1700s a much greater proportion at Burwoods certainly was being used for arable farming. Writers on agriculture at the time are praising the quality of south-east Essex farming, and noting that wheat, beans, oats and mustard are being grown with a great return.

By the early nineteenth century, leases for land on Foulness, including that of Burwoods, stipulated that the crop rotation should be over a 6-year period, so year 1 was fallow, year 2 oats,

barley or white mustard, year 3 clover, 4 wheat, 5 beans or peas and year 6 wheat. Should the clover fail beans were to be grown instead.

First Responders

Finally the Ambulance Service has given up saying that the defibrillator is theirs. It was donated to us in March 2000 by Keymed; it was their choice to upgrade.

So I'll put out a final plea, as I know new blood has arrived on the island!

If anyone would like to restart the Community First Response Team for the island, please contact the Ambulance Service directly on 0345 6013733 and ask for the Community First Response co-ordinator.

They will explain what's required to become a First Responder.

I still have all equipment, except oxygen, and all the training equipment too. So there should be no start-up costs and we still have some funds in the account anyway. Tell the ambulance co-ordinator that you have everything ready to go.

If I don't hear from anyone, residents or Ambulance Service,

by the New Year, I will sell everything and donate proceeds to the Air Ambulance.

Oh, and Merry Christmas everyone!

Gary Bickford
0792 115 8480

If you are able to help in any way so many islanders would be grateful; we've had cause to thank Gary and his helpers so many times over the years. Ed

Used Stamps

Here's my annual reminder and plea: If you think of it when the cards start dropping through your door, please tear off the stamps from the envelopes, leaving a small border of paper. British or foreign – both can be used. If you would drop them off in the porch at Hall Farm I shall be pleased to collect them up and send them off to a deserving charity – they sell them to collectors here and abroad to raise funds.

Denise

Have you tried?

Eatalia
173 The Broadway
Thorpe Bay SS1 3EX
☎ 01702 875955

This restaurant had only been open a few weeks at the time of writing in September. It seemed to be very popular, so my daughter and I decided to lunch

there one Friday at about 13.20. It was really busy but we were shown to a table very quickly.

The menu is basically pizzas, lasagne, spaghetti and other Italian dishes. I chose lasagne – I'm not a great pasta eater – and found it delicious, and my daughter had Quattro formaggi pizza which she found so generous she couldn't eat it all. If she had cut a wedge off, I'm sure she could have taken it home.

We had one Americano coffee and one medium cappuccino. With the Diet Coke and the mineral water we had before the meal the bill was £29.25 which was perhaps a little more than we would pay for a casual lunch, but we considered it well worth it.

The following Friday I went again, this time with my husband, and arrived at about 12.15. This time it wasn't quite so busy. Again we had lasagne, and then we treated ourselves to one of their lovely desserts. With my husband's beer and my mineral water, the bill came to about £33. We enjoyed what we had but my husband discovered he had missed seeing the 'specials' board and so had missed out on dressed crab and salad, so maybe next time

I'm not sure if you can book; we must ask next time. They're quite happy if you pop in for just a coffee and cake. They close about 9.30pm.

And finally ... A policeman in a small town in Cambridgeshire stopped a motorist who was speeding down the High Street.

"But officer ..." the man began, "I can explain."

"Just be quiet," snapped the traffic officer. "I'm going to let you cool down on a cell at the local police station until the Chief Inspector gets back."

"But officer I just wanted to say" the man pleaded. However, the policeman interrupted him, asking him to get into the back of the patrol car.

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner in the cell and said, "Lucky for you that the Chief Inspector is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," answered the man in the cell. "I'm the groom."

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