

Foulness Newsletter
January 2019

A Happy New Year
To All Our Readers!

May we repeat the good wishes in the box above – a very happy and healthy New Year to one and all. It seems hardly any time since we had to learn to write ‘2018’ and now we’ve got to remember it’s 2019. Must be a sign of getting older. We hope that by the time this is printed the weather will still be kind enough for deliveries to be made without too much trauma, despite what the forecasters are threatening to throw at us.

While on the subject of deliveries, we owe a very public THANK YOU to all those who regularly deliver this newsletter and other items to your homes. The least you can do in return is read it! (And perhaps occasionally have a bit to say, an opinion, an ad to go in, a ‘free to a good home’ don’t worry about wording – that’s what editors are for.)

In Memoriam

Ann Hardstaff, Stella Harrod,
Joan Hume,
Andrew Lilley, Joe Lilley,
Susannah Self

Gone but not forgotten

A prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me a few friends who understand me and remain my friends; work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer; a mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed; an understanding heart; a sense of humour; time for quiet, silent meditation; a feeling of the presence of God; the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to recognise them when they come.

Monthly Worship

There will be no monthly worship on Foulness this month but look out for further information in next month’s newsletter.

December magazine

We are grateful to those who had Christmas Greetings printed last month and offered the magazine a donation in lieu of the cost of cards and stamps. If you've been meaning to drop a donation in the door of 23 Churchend it's still not too late.

Parish Council

Due to the issue regarding the recording of meetings, the Parish Council continue 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 a Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

No early starts to report.
Late working: Friday 14 December.

The trial at Shelford will continue into Friday afternoon with the associated closed areas and

periodic road closures. Road Closures: until 14 December.

Periodic road closures on the spine road between Taylor's Hut and Jerrywood continue until the end of this week. This will result in short delays for road traffic.

Scrub Clearance at DAT: Sat 15 & Sun 16 December. Land Area 4 including PROWs (excluding access to The Chase and White City residential areas) will remain closed on Saturday and Sunday whilst scrub clearance is conducted at DAT. Red flags will be flown.

Road Repairs: Temporary repairs to the worst potholes have been completed this week with more permanent repairs to be conducted in January. Resurfacing of the Nasewick Road (up to the cottages) will take place before Christmas.

Tree Maintenance: Following the full tree survey conducted in the summer, works are beginning now on the tasks identified. Works that fall outside the competency of our Grounds Maintenance team will be carried out by an external contractor before the end of the Financial Year.

Havengore Bridge: The bridge is currently closed to marine traffic due to a fault with the hydraulics. Road access is not affected.

Christmas Shutdown: The Range will close for Christmas on Friday 21 December and re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Our thanks to Nicki Uden, Community Liaison Office for this report

Parish Council

The Parish Council held its meeting on 12th December 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm. County and District Councillor Mike Steptoe and District Councillors Daniel Efde and Jo McPherson were in attendance.

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2018.

The meeting then received a talk from Mike Steptoe, Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council and from Shaun Scrutton, Managing Director of Rochford District Council, on the ways that Rochford District Council could help the Parishioners of Foulness Island. They answered several questions from Parish Councillors and members of the public.

The meeting approved the payment requests for the period

November/December 2018. There were no receipts during the period.

The meeting also approved the precept request to Rochford District Council for the 2019/2020 financial year. It was noted that the Council Tax Support Grant received from Rochford District Council had reduced by 50% from £136 to £68 and it was agreed that the precept should be increased by 3% from £2,614 to £2,692.

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

The planning application by the MOD to Rochford District Council was noted.

The Clerk reported that he had nothing further to report in respect of his letter to James Duddridge expressing concern about the Havengore Bridge being stuck in an open position.

The Council will not be meeting in January so the next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 13th February 2019 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.

We wish all parishioners and happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

John Watson
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Foulness Newsletter

As we come to the end of another year of the newsletter standing on its own feet, being funded solely by your voluntary donations, we thank all of you who have supported us and shown your appreciation of our efforts by making a donation, of whatever size, or whatever sort (monetary or tangible assets) towards running costs.

We had extra costs in the purchase of cartridges, paper and new drum this year, more costs than usual, so it is unlikely that we shall end the year in the black. An audited balance sheet will be available from Denise later in the

New Year if you would like to see the full financial details.

May we remind you that if ever you want anything inserted for publication the space will be made available, so long as you get it to Denise at Hall Farm by the monthly deadline – see back page of the previous newsletter each time. Don't forget the 'free to a good home' advert if you have something others might well make use of.

May we also remind you that the newsletter is delivered to all houses (and further afield) free of charge but all donations are much appreciated, so that this community service may keep going.

Foulness Tide Times

January 2019

	AM height		PM height	
Sat 5	11.47	5.1	****	
Sun 6	01.11	5.1	12.26	5.1
Sat 12	03.37	4.9	04.02	4.7
Sun 13	04.14	4.7	04.44	4.6
Sat 19	10.23	5.0	10.59	5.0
Sun 20	11.17	5.3	11.52	5.2
Sat 26	03.49	5.4	01.15	5.3
Sun 27	04.36	5.2	05.08	5.0

Situations Vacant

Is there some kind soul – perhaps a dog-walker? – who would be good enough to take over the delivery of the magazine through Courtend? Or perhaps two of you to split up the round? It would entail a healthy walk 11 times a year and any offers would be gratefully received on 217836.

We have to thank Dilys for the years she has done this job, but she has now earned her long-service medal and we would hope that a younger person might feel they can take this on.

What happened in 2018?

(Answers on the back page)

- 1 At which zoo in northern England was there recently a bad fire?
- 2 Who won this year's "Strictly Come Dancing"?
- 3 In which country was the recent G20 summit held?
- 4 Who was voted Sports Personality of the Year?
- 5 Pensioners arrested for smuggling cocaine were on which cruise ship that usually leaves from Tilbury?
- 6 In which month did Harry and Meghan marry?
- 7 What was the end-of-year pantomime at the Cliffs?
- 8 In which English city did the Novichok attacks take place?
- 9 Which former US President died at the end of November?
- 10 In which European country have there been 'yellow vest' protests?
- 11 What is the title of the book recently published by the FCAS?
- 12 Who has stepped down as presenter of *Question Time* after many years?
- 13 Which male MP recently had a decent haircut and went on a diet?
- 14 Who won *I'm a Celebrity ...* ?
- 15 Who successfully sued the BBC for invasion of privacy?
- 16 In which country was there a huge meeting in December on the subject of climate change?
- 17 Who said "What did you call me? You called me nebulous."?
- 18 Which royal turned 70 this year?
- 19 Who said "It's completely untrue to say I did it (*I'm a Celebrity*) in order to raise awareness for autism. I did it for the money"?
- 20 Which 'special one' lost his job just before Christmas?

Annual Reports

If you have any information that could make the basis of an annual report in any subject dear to your heart (fishing, weather, gardening?) it would be welcomed at Hall Farm for inclusion in the February newsletter. We know that fishing's not been easily available for various reasons but a weather report or notes on something of interest in the garden would be especially welcome.

Have things changed in 20 years?

Snippets from our magazine of 1998

Twenty years ago our magazine was regularly one sheet of paper, with the rector's message on the front page. It went on to tell us other news that would affect residents. From the Council notes we learn that the RDC Emergency Planning Officer would be visiting the island to assess the situation in the case of an emergency. Now where have we heard that before?

There were reports on the trip to the panto for the island's youngsters, and on the dinner for the older generation, organised by

the Amenities Club. They were planning a race evening (always popular) and a hobbies evening (a new venture) later in the year.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

Now that we are spruced up again we shall set about changing some of our displays ready for the coming season, which will be upon us before we can blink. We shall open again on the first Sunday in April – more details nearer the time – but if you want a quick word with Bob, to ask him something or just to have a chat, he's often in the Heritage Centre on a Friday.

Have you tried

Il Palazzo
1 West Road, Westcliff
SS0 9AU
☎ 01702 341888

We decided to whizz over to this restaurant, where we've been before and not been disappointed, one Sunday evening in late summer. One thing we like about the place is that parking is relatively easy in the big car park at Hamlet Court Road lights, and then there's a short stroll down to the next set of lights, commenting on what has changed since we last ventured this far. Get the timing

right and there'll still be a shop open where you can stock up on the spices you need in the kitchen and maybe a packet of prawn crackers.

We had actually booked and it's a good job we had done so – at 6.30 on a Sunday evening it was utterly heaving, so unlike many other places you may come across. Then we woke up – lots of the diners were having a pre-theatre meal, and after 7.30 you could much more easily hear the conversation on the other side of the table.

The restaurant does offer a set menu at £14.95 for two courses, but not on a Friday or Saturday evening – quite understandable. In that you get a choice of 6 starters and 5 main courses, which are dishes of fish, pork, chicken, beef and a vegetarian option. You're not likely to be hungry still, but you can then always add something from the separate dessert menu.

There is also a children's menu at £5.95 but being of the age where I'm not likely to need that, my curiosity didn't lead me to ask to look at it. You'll have to do your own research if you have young children!

The three of us ate from the main menu and I was delighted with the dish of grilled sardines I ordered (£6.50) – a small salad with them added to the taste. Next to me the *fritto misto* at £7.95 was thoroughly enjoyed as was the crab claw dish opposite. The £8.95 charge was understandable when you poke with a fork and discover all the ingredients. There are less expensive starters.

When it comes to other courses, there are salads, pizzas and pastas. Be warned that the linguini puttanesca is quite hot enough for most people; I had seen the word 'chilli' in the description and had visions of fishing out any whole chillis, but they weren't whole to be found. Hey-ho. If you want to choose a dish that's not pasta or pizza, there are 4 fish dishes, and several chicken, pork, veal, lamb and steak dishes.

I don't have a desperately sweet tooth but do like to end my meal with a dessert so was pleased I had room; there's plenty to choose from – profiteroles, panna cotta, sorbet, banoffee pie, cheesecake, fresh pineapple and a tiramisu which is home-made.

If you've really not got much room there's mixed ice creams.

There is a wide range of drinks, soft and otherwise, and at least four wines available by the glass.

Il Palazzo is a place that's useful to have at the back of one's mind; it's always there as a reliable stand-by. It has a sister restaurant in Southchurch but parking there is more of a headache.

Your reports of any restaurants will always be welcomed by the Editor at Hall Farm.

Answers to the Quiz:

- 1 Chester
- 2 Stacey Dooley
- 3 Brazil
- 4 Geraint Thomas
- 5 *Marco Polo*
- 6 May
- 7 Aladdin
- 8 Salisbury
- 9 George Bush
- 10 France
- 11 *Foulness- the years of change*
- 12 David Dimbleby
- 13 Boris Johnson
- 14 Harry Redknapp
- 15 Cliff Richard
- 16 Poland
- 17 Teresa May
- 18 Prince Charles
- 19 Anne Hegerty
- 20 José Mourinho

And finally

A waiter in a restaurant asks a patron, "May I take your order, sir?"

"Yes, but before you do, I have one question," replies the man. "How do you prepare your chickens?"

The waiter says, "Oh nothing special, sir. We just tell them straight out that they're going to die."

Items for publication (an advert, an opinion, news, 'free to a good home', are always welcomed. For inclusion in the February newsletter, these should be with Denise at Hall Farm by 18th January.