

Foulness Island

June 2017

It's June already, and where have the weeks and months gone since we were celebrating the arrival of a New Year? When we were younger we could hear our elders commenting on how quickly time seemed to pass, and if we were counting the slowly-dragging days to a birthday or to something else equally special we would wonder what on earth they were on about. But now the years have passed for us too, we appreciate the comment of "How quickly time flies". To-ing and fro-ing off the island it seems just a few weeks ago that we were travelling between apparently barren land and leafless trees, but now all is changed, and the changing views are already beginning to herald the advent of harvest – and then another year will nearly be over!

Still, before we write off 2017 (before we've got used to writing the date properly), let's hope there is a summer to enjoy, though with the odd weather we have these days there's no telling. We had some wonderful balmy spring days and then, just when we were getting used to the warmth, the cold came screaming back and we had to think about putting the heating on again or finding the warmer clothes almost consigned to the back of the wardrobe, just to remind us that we're not in control of Nature.

If Nature is kind to us, our gardens will flourish. Visitors to the Island so often comment about how well the majority of the gardens are kept. It is clear that these gardens are not only cared for but that the gardeners enjoy the work, displaying the fruits of their labours and much tender loving care for all to see. They are a credit. Like our gardens, our faith needs taking care of. It requires time, care and attention, lest it become over-run and choked. It might help us to read the Parable of The Sower, in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 8.

In Memoriam

In June we remember

Frank Cook

Betty Dent

Eunice (Tibby) Hume

Andrew Lilley

Alf Rawlings

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness Parish Council

Council Matters

The May meeting was the Annual Council meeting.

Councillor Elaine Pitts was re-elected as Chair of the Council and Councillor Gary Bickford was elected Vice Chair.

Council approved the bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2017. They also approved the payment requests for the month. The Clerk reported that the first half of the precept from Rochford District Council had been received in the amount of £1,377.00. The second half of the precept should be received in June.

Council also approved the statement of accounts as at 31st March 2017, the Asset Schedule

at the same date and approved and signed the relevant sections of the Annual Return for submission to the External Auditors.

All of the above documents will be loaded on the Council website in June.

Finally, the Council noted the internal audit report. This will also be loaded on the Council website in June

It was noted that there was still no news about the procedure to make compensation claims regarding the major power failure on the Island and the Clerk reported that, together with Councillor Giles, a letter had been agreed which would be sent to QinetiQ and others expressing their disappointment at the time it is taking to resolve this issue.

Finally please note that there will not be a meeting in June, the next meeting being on 12th July. This will commence at the normal time of 7.00 pm.

QinetiQ Report

Early Starts: There will be an early start at DAT on 23rd May commencing at 8.30 am.

Power Interruptions: No power interruptions are currently scheduled.

Water Interruptions: No water supply interruptions are scheduled.

Trials: Trials are scheduled for the Nazewick area starting on 31st May and expected to run through June.

Security Closures: There will be closures in Land Areas 3 & 4 from June to October. Residents will be notified but these areas will be closed to the public during that time.

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Children's Society boxes

I'm grateful to those of you who have managed to get your boxes to me this past month - I'll let you know the total sent off to

Headquarters just as soon as I've got around to what I now know are the last of the box-holders.

Denise

Help on Offer

A recent visitor to the Island was the Revd Janet Nicholls, who is the Agricultural Chaplain to the Diocese of Chelmsford. She was interested in all we had to show her, and very much aware of the problems of living in a rural community.

As Agricultural Chaplain, she works alongside the rural community, providing a confidential listening ear and pastoral support. Her farming background gives her an understanding of the issues involved in living and working in a relatively isolated community. She has links with agricultural support agencies and charities that can provide practical help in a range of situations.

A flier giving further details is currently in the Heritage Centre and her contact numbers are

☎01371 851317

Mob: 07590 929499

jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

Is summer on its way?

If you have looked around your gardens and the nearby hedgerows, you may well have seen small fledglings and heard the twittering. You may even have one or more nest boxes in your garden and delighted in the contents coming and going. But apart from there and hedges, birds sometimes choose the oddest places to nest – why would oyster catchers nest up in a barn gutter unless it's to escape those creatures which predate ground-nesting birds' nests? They may have been the same oyster catchers which nested on the grass verge at Taylor's Hut but deserted their nest after a late spring charity bike ride.

It's upsetting for many to see fledglings and larger birds squashed on the road. We know that wildlife has a tendency to try to commit suicide but do please try to look out for these little bundles of fluff.

If you're walking your dogs or your youngsters are out playing, please be aware that many patches of greenery will contain Avocet or Skylark nests and/or young. We need to have respect for the countryside in which we're so lucky to live.

Foulness Tide Times June 2017

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 3	08.09	5.1	20.40	5.1
Sun 4	09.07	5.1	21.44	5.1
Sat 10	01.24	5.7	13.42	5.6
Sun 11	02.00	5.7	14.16	5.6
Sat 17	05.56	5.1	18.16	5.1
Sun 18	06.55	5.1	19.19	5.1
Sat 24	00.34	6.0	13.07	5.9
Sun 25	01.25	6.2	14.16	6.0

Foulness Newsletter

In the past, June has been the traditional month for getting out the begging bowl, bearing in mind that this newsletter is produced and delivered free to every house on the island, and to others further afield, people who want to keep in touch with this community and who have the grace to make a donation towards postage. Unlike other newsletters, we cannot survive on advertising revenue.

If you would like to show your appreciation of this newsletter and its contents, (even if it's only a giggle at the *And finally* ...) or have found it useful to

publish Council notes, thanks, or any other message, any donation, however small, would be much appreciated. Indeed, we are immensely grateful for those donations we have already received this year.

With a small fluctuating population like ours, (and we are always pleased to see houses reoccupied, but we note with disbelief how long some previously habitable properties have been empty), it is harder than ever to keep things going, so the community would be grateful for anything you may choose to give. Please pop your donation in an envelope and drop it through the door of 23 Churchend next time you are passing. We'll happily bank anything you give us and will be especially pleased to receive donations from new sources. Go on, surprise us! Cheques for larger amounts (!) may be made out to Foulness Island Newsletter.

If you ever have anything for publication, an opinion, an advert, a 'free to a good home', anything, it will be warmly welcomed by the Editor at Hall Farm. We're more than happy to print your restaurant reviews as

well, and your 'and finally ..' bits are more than welcome.

The curse of the commentator

"The pitch is a bit bobbly, which is a great leveler."

Chris Waddle Radio 5 Live

"They (Chelsea) are about to bring on Branislav Ivanovic, as are Brentford."

Chris Wise Radio 5 Live

"The Leicester defence seem to have taken their eye off the gas."

Phil Neville Radio 5 Live

"Sometimes the hype lives up to expectations."

Barry Hearn Radio 5 Live

Newsletter Deadline

There will not be an August newsletter. If you have something in mind for insertion, or have a September event planned, please think ahead and get the information to Denise at Hall Farm by 18th June for the July edition.

They lived on Foulness

Mr H Mead

Mr Mead, affectionately known as *Hawley*, lived and worked in part of what is known as Hill

House in Courstend. He was the local harness-maker and was also a part-time rate collector for RDC and for many years was a faithful and hard-working church warden.

He was a typical example of the fine rural craftsmen of their day and was particularly famed for his green lunch bags, known locally as 'beever bags' from the East Anglian dialect word for breakfast, based on the Old French *bievre*, to drink. There is a later example of one of these bags in the Heritage Centre.

Have you tried ...

Padrino's
7-9 Shorefield Road, Westcliff
☎ 01702 345891?

Well, maybe you have in the past but then it was called Mama Mia's. There is no hint in their promotion pack as to why they changed their name but whatever they may have been called, they have been established for over 25 years. If you've ever been up (or down!) Shorefield Road you may have noticed a group of three Italian restaurants in a row there; are they all under the same ownership, one wonders, or do

they live amicably together anyway?

We called there one Wednesday evening in spring, arriving about 6.30 and the place was already heaving. Of course, there is the proximity to the Cliffs Pavilion, so maybe the clientele was nearly all early diners before a show. The place did 'thin out' a little later, and then filled again before we left.

Sundays to Thursdays, they open at 5.30 pm and Fridays and Saturdays at 12.30 pm, closing at 10.30 pm each time.

There are two rooms, inter-linked, and it seems the tendency is to fill one before the other, if opportunity arises. If you want quiet, it may pay to ask to be seated in what appears to be the quieter room at the time you visit. Tables are fairly close together and it is not a place for an intimate dining experience, although a tattooed hand and arm was being clasped fairly well a couple of tables from us. Mind you, the hand doing the clasping belonged to someone who'd ordered a mixed seafood pasta AS WELL AS a side order of chips. The closeness of the

tables also prevented me from making my usual copious notes!

The place is absolutely spotless and though it may not run to 'fain dining' you note that each table is scrupulously cleaned after it is vacated.

In the early part of the week, a 2-course special is offered, at £9.95, with a choice of 6 starters and 7 main courses. There is available a children's menu at £5.95 offering a number of simple main courses, an ice cream and a choice of soft drinks.

There are large 'specials' boards – Murphy's Law dictated that I was seated with my back to the one in our section, and I got tired of asking my partner to read it to me. Opposite me, he was able to take full advantage of what was on offer, but I stuck to the à la carte menu. From the four or five special starters on offer he chose grilled squid, which came attractively presented with good colouring to enhance the incised diamond pattern, and with a mixed salad. I had chosen calamari, too, but mine was in battered rings, with a good dressing on the salad. In retrospect, I realize that the

garlic mayonnaise that was supposed to be with the dish did not arrive.

For main courses, the à la carte menu has a good choice of pasta dishes, pizzas, meat dishes, fish and rice dishes, and there was a good choice of extra dishes on the specials board. These included Dover sole at around £22 and several other fish dishes at less than that. The meat dishes come with potatoes and two vegetables and next time I shall be well aware that portions are generous. My pork with mushrooms, cream and white wine sauce was delicious but bade fair to ruining my pudding course as it more than filled me, despite my leaving some of the vegetables.

My partner's choice from the specials was King Prawn Tagliatelli with truffle cream sauce. When asked for a considered opinion, it was helpfully pronounced nice and creamy as it should be. He did comment on the lack of a finger bowl or a lemon-soaked napkin as there was hand-to-hand combat with the prawns which came in the dish unshelled – much more impressive-looking, but more messy.

There was a pleasing choice of puddings, desserts, sweets, call them what you will, but the generosity of the main course caused us to order only a 'selection of ice creams' and cassata, which was delicious. Another time, I shall restrain myself as far as the starters are concerned, so I can do justice to the puddings.

With the meal, being the designated driver, I had just a glass of the crispest Sauvignon you could wish for and no fault could be found with it. There was no pressure to have more than I wanted. (The same had applied at the start of the meal: no pressure to add to the profit margin with garlic bread being pressed upon you.) My partner was pleased with the selection of beers on offer and enjoyed two different imported Italian beers, commenting that it was nice to see something on offer apart from the ubiquitous Peroni.

We finished with coffee, an Americano and an espresso, both of which really hit the spot, accompanied by a crisp Amoretti biscuit. A branded chocolate mint came with the bill. There was no pressure to leave. This was certainly a place to consider for the future, admittedly 'the other side of Southend' but not as far as Leigh and its potential parking difficulties.

Tip: Beware the traffic wardens here when you park as they are active even in the evenings, issuing tickets and taking photos for evidence.

And finally A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience was different each week so he did the same tricks over and over.

The problem was that the captain's parrot saw all the shows and began to understand how the magician did every trick.

In the middle of the show the parrot would start squawking "Look, it's not the same hat!", or "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table", or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but, as it was the captain's parrot, he could do nothing. Then, one day the ship sank and the magician found himself floating on a piece of wood with the parrot.

They glared at each other but neither said a word. Finally, after a week, the parrot said, "OK, I give up. Where's the boat?"

Items (articles, adverts, 'free to a good home', opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the July newsletter these should be with Denise at Old Hall Farm by 18th June.