

# *Foulness Island*

*March 2019*

I'm sure you're going to be eating pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, whether you bought them or made them, whether you try to toss them or not. This tradition of pancakes began with the idea of using up various items from the store cupboard before the start of Lent, nothing to do with silly pancake races or other modern trappings. Then follows Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, the period in which we remember the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. We have heard of John the Baptist living in the wilderness, being dressed only in goatskins and living on what he could find. But Jesus would have been in a worse state physically. We don't know how he was dressed but just imagine trying to keep warm in the very cold desert nights. We do know he was there for 40 days and 40 nights, that he fasted all that time. It wasn't just a daylight fast, making up for that in the hours of darkness. In these days when each of us is adequately, if not well, fed it's hard to imagine what such a fast would do to one's mental state. It's bad enough when circumstances force us to miss one meal; we cannot imagine the deprivation of a longer fast. There could well be hallucinations or other mental disturbances.

So it's little wonder that we read Jesus was visited by the tempter and of various suggestions being made that would have improved Jesus' life. He stood firm against these temptations. In comparison, we try only to withstand minute amounts of temptations. What happened to your New Year Resolutions? When we are faced with problems we need to remember the words of St Paul: "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

### **Mrs Joyce Dobson**

It is with great sadness that we note the recent passing of Joyce Dobson, coming so soon as it does after the death of Leon.

Although Joyce was originally a Barling girl, her grandmother had lived on Foulness and so she had known the island well before she married Leon and came to live here.

Married to Leon in 1954, Joyce and Leon lived in Churchend for many years. She was a church-goer, a supporter of the Women's Institute and in later years a supporter of the Heritage Centre. She and Leon were well-travelled and had enjoyed their various holidays to other parts of the world. She was always able to make good use of the produce of Leon's carefully tended garden.

In later years Joyce and Leon were grateful for all the help they received from their friends and neighbours in Churchend, which enabled them to stay in the home they loved.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with their family as they come to terms with their double loss.

### **In Memoriam**

*In March we remember*

*Dennis Barrett*

*Betty Childs*

*Joan Clark*

*Lily Dean*

*Stephen Hume*

*Denis Lilley*

*Grace Nicholls*

*Jim Pedrick*

*Olive Willsmer*

*Margaret Wolstencroft*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### **Sunday Worship**

Our next gathering for Sunday Worship will be at 9am on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> when we shall mark the beginning of Lent. You will be very welcome. For further information please ring 217836.

### **Foulness 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.

Unfortunately and due to the lack of availability of Councillors we were not able to hold our February meeting and the business to be conducted at that meeting will be carried forward to the March meeting.

**Havengore Bridge:** Residents will be aware that drivers have become used to seeing a series of flashing lights and having an audible warning, in addition to the lowering of the barriers, when the bridge lift is about to be activated for marine traffic. Drivers will know that when the westerly sun is at a certain height it is very difficult to see the barrier; the flashing lights will have warned the driver from a distance that the barriers will be down.

In discussion at the recent QinetiQ/Resident meeting it became clear that these safety procedures are not programmed in place during periods of testing or work on the bridge mechanism; only the barrier is lowered. Until further safeguards are put in place you may wish to be aware of this fact.

Finally are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor? Elections to the Parish Council will be held on May and, if you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk for an election pack.

### **QinetiQ/Foulness Residents' Report**

There will be *early starts* on  
25 February, 08:00 at Q Battery;  
5, 6 & 7 March, 08:30 at DAT; and  
12 March, 08:00 at Q Battery.

*Illuminating Rounds* will be from Q Battery on 13 & 14 March; this advance notice is to let you know that they will not be indicative of a marine emergency; they are not flares from a vessel.

*Havengore Bridge:* This will be open to marine traffic in accordance with the MOD byelaws. Test lists will resume this week and, going forward, they will

be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Warning signals and sirens are currently not functioning so please take extra care on your approach to the bridge.

*QQ Fibre Shutdown* – Friday 15 February, 12:30-17:30. The QQ fibre network will be shut down this Friday afternoon. This will mean that the QQ telephone and computer network will be offline. It is hoped to let residents know of a mobile number that can be used to contact Landwick.

*Road Traffic Incidents* Following two recent road traffic accidents, we should remember to drive carefully. Luckily, no one has been seriously injured but the events of the past couple of weeks should serve as a reminder that we have some tricky stretches and bends to negotiate so we should always drive to the road and weather conditions, obey the speed limits, and wear seatbelts.

*Border Force Visit* We had a meeting with Intelligence Officers from Border Force today. They've identified the Foulness coast as a potentially vulnerable area for smuggling and are keen to make sure that residents are vigilant and know how to report any suspicious activities that they may observe. They will be sending through details

which we will share when we have them.

### ***Post Meeting update from Group Property***

Works on the Let Estate are progressing well.

There are plans to move the welfare and ISO container from Churchend by next week (currently in George and Dragon car park).

Road works are planned for March but not confirmed yet. Dates and details will be shared with tenants by a letter drop and signs along the road. Works will include some re-surfacing, white line painting and repairs.

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

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**Have you tried ...**

### **The Barge at Battlesbridge?**

After a hard morning looking at all that is displayed in the Mill at Battlesbridge, and muttering “That’s supposed to be an *antique*? We used to have one of those indoors. And they want *that* for it? No way!” – well, you may be in

need of restoring the inner man, just as I was. You certainly would have been in that state on the day we went – Arctic wasn’t the word for it, and there’s no way you can adequately heat a place like the multi-floored old mill that is now a centre for many antique dealers.

So when we came out, The Barge was the first place we saw. We didn’t feel in the mood, nor did my frozen feet feel able, to walk any further looking for its more gastro-pub neighbour.

We hadn’t made a reservation and we were warmly welcomed inside and found a table. For a freezing cold Tuesday there were already plenty of people enjoying what was on offer. By the time we came to leave, much later, it was not exactly full to busting but certainly well filled.

The Barge makes no pretence to be up-market but the sight of fresh daffodils in a little vase on each table was a welcome sight, as was the smile on the face of the person serving us; she was young, sensible, down-to-earth, happy to discuss the drink and the food and to make sure we were happy where we were sitting.

There’s a good range of what one might consider to be the usual pub dishes, though there doesn’t seem to be a great choice for vegetarians – nothing specifically ‘veggie’ though they can make adjustments if you ask.

Since I already had my eye on sticky toffee pudding, I sensibly kept off having a starter, though there were several there that would have made good eating. I chose beer-battered haddock with chips and peas, and my partner chose the scampi. Neither of us felt like being pretentious. The fish with its batter was one of the best I’ve had in recent months; it’s not often I actually pick bits off

the batter and nibble them by themselves. Too often the batter can be flabby and unwelcome. The chips were good, too, but oh dear! the peas. I'm all for keeping an eye on costs, and perhaps choosing a packet of frozen vegetables that are not top-of-the-range trade-named, but if they can't find a better supply of peas than that they had better stop serving them. I can understand why I heard a nearby table asking to have grilled tomatoes instead of peas with the dish they had chosen.

The sticky toffee pudding more than made up for that, however. (The body the other side of the table had decided to go for a trio of ice cream scoops, feeling full from his scampi, since we normally eat our main meal in the evening.) When I ordered my STP I said to the waitress that I normally go for that when out since I can never find a home cooking recipe for it that is a sensible size for two people: they so often say "serves 8" and come with a list of ingredients that can't sensibly be quartered. She laughed and said she'd be likely to eat it all anyway. The dish came to the table looking really good, with a small jug of custard on the plate, sitting on a folded paper napkin. A light dusting of chocolate, and a fanned, halved strawberry completed the plate.

We enjoyed our meal, had bought a couple of small items earlier and looked forward to getting home and completing the afternoon with a welcome cup of tea.

Oh, while I think of it, both sets of loos were sparkling clean and modern, and the place is dog-friendly, perhaps too friendly for some, as my meal was accompanied by a nearby snuffling and panting the whole time – and it wasn't the beer-drinker who shared my table making the noise!

#### Foulness Tide Times

##### March 2019

	AM		PM	
Sat 2	09.21	4.8	21.55	4.8
Sun 3	10.24	5.1	22.48	5.1
Sat 9	01.42	5.7	14.00	5.6
Sun 10	02.13	5.7	14.30	5.5
Sat 16	06.51	4.9	19.44	4.7
Sun 17	08.23	5.0	21.12	4.9
Sat 23	01.30	6.2	14.34	6.0
Sun 24	02.11	6.2	14.34	6.0
Sat 30	07.25	4.6	20.01	4.4
Sun 31	09.47	4.7	22.16	4.7

Allowances made for British Summer Time

## **Foulness Heritage Centre**

With the new season of Open Days coming up before we know it, we are especially keen to welcome new volunteers who feel they may be able to help in any way at all, especially in the kitchen. You don't have to be an expert on Foulness, just someone who is willing to get involved in Foulness life.

If you would like to learn what may be involved, you will be more than welcome to chat to us at/after the forthcoming AGM – see notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

### **Have things changed in 20 years? Snippets from our magazine**

March 1999: Last month's Christingle Service at church had allowed us to send £281 to the Children's Society.

At the Council meeting there were complaints about electricity outages and we learned that the water heater in the hall was to be replaced. A time switch for general heating was installed, to warm up the place before gatherings.

The Cheese and Wine evening with Peter Stacey from the local auctioneers had been successful and the Amenities Club was planning a race evening and a hobbies evening for the future.

The Flood Warning cascade system was being updated, with the advent of new residents for the island. For younger readers, this was long before the wide use of mobile phones. Look at some old TV programmes: these phones were the size of a house brick.

## **Wakering Spring Show**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

This show is always a pleasure to visit and, as there's still a few weeks to go yet, the spring flowers have a chance to get going to delight us all again this year. Even if you don't exhibit, (and the classes are open to all who live on Foulness – see Gt Wakering Community Association newsletter for where to

obtain the year-book and entry form) it's always worth having a look to see what our gardens might aspire to at this time of year.

If you don't feel you can manage the specialist spring flower classes, there's always something as apparently relatively simple as a

**Have you read ...**

*It could happen* by May Bee

*TV Antiquity* by Anna Logg

*Risen from the depths*  
by Mary Rose

*Genuflecting* by Neal Down

*Casual Meetings* by Phil Landerer  
Thanks to Roy Eighteen for these

*Items for publication, (an advert, an opinion, news, 'Free to a good home') are always welcomed. For inclusion in the next newsletter, items should be with Denise at Hall Farm by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*

**Foulness Conservation and  
Archaeological Society**

The Trustees  
of the  
Foulness Conservation and  
Archaeological Society

invite all members and supporters  
of the Society  
to the Annual General Meeting  
which will be held on  
Tuesday 12th March  
at 7.30pm  
in the Heritage Centre.