
Foulness Island

November 2018

November? The beginning of a period of frost, perhaps, or maybe even foggy nights and days. We notice it especially if we are travelling home in the dark, along the Jerry Straight, and we need to take particular care.

The young are less heedful – their idea of November is Guy Fawkes' Night, with a bonfire and a load of fireworks if they are lucky. We tend not to experience on here these days a huge community bonfire, with the lads having collected a great load of dead branches, and a pooling of what fireworks they've saved up for. Something tells me that these days the paperwork would be beyond our worst nightmares and the cost of a licence beyond our means. (A wry smile as I think of my late brother – a load of fireworks going up with a bang in Dad's 'borrowed' cartridge bag, destroying it totally, and Andy, later, straight-faced, helping Dad to look for the bag the latter couldn't find.)

But after November 5th, our thoughts turn to November 11th, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday this year. Our Service of Remembrance will be on November 11th when we remember particularly those from this island who gave their lives for our futures. Please join us if you can, on this, the 100th year since the end of World War I.

Lest We Forget

There will be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard on Sunday November 12th beginning at 9am.

Please come and join us in remembering all those suffering as a result of wars past and present, and to pray for those, especially our own armed forces, caught up in conflict throughout the world today.

In Memoriam

*In November
we remember*

Tom Burroughs

Win Cook

Edna Hume

Denis Lilley

Frank Mead

Jack and Dinah Rawlings

Vera Shelley

Phoebe Webb

*and those whose names are on our
War Memorial*

Gone but not forgotten

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.

Parish Council notes

The Parish Council held its meeting on 10th October 2018 commencing at 7.15 pm.

A report was received from County Cllr Mike Steptoe.

The meeting approved the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2018 and the Accounts for the three months to 30th June 2018. Council also approved the

payment requests for the period July to October 2018 and noted the receipts for the same period. The Clerk reported that he had received an anonymous donation towards the gift for the recently retired first responder. Copies of all these documents can be found on our website.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received the usual annual letter from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and it was unanimously agreed to donate £50 to them.

The Clerk reported that he had completed the documentation in respect of the new Data Protection requirements and the Council was now legally compliant. A sub-committee of Councillors Elaine Pitts and Tony Porter together with the Clerk was formed to deal with the day to day aspects of this legislation.

The Clerk also reported that the new bank mandate had been completed.

Parishioner Adam Holyland reported that, due to other

commitments, he would not be able to continue with cutting the grass in the Children's Play Area. Council thanked him for the work he had done during the year which was very much appreciated.

The Clerk advised that Jeff Stacey, the Emergency Planning and Business Community Officer at Rochford District Council would be attending the November meeting to give a presentation on Emergency Planning for Foulness Island.

County Councillor Mike Steptoe would be attending the December 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 14th November 2018 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

QinetiQ notes - Foulness Residents' Meeting Report – October 2018

Early Starts: 16 October, 6-8 & 14 November, 08:30 at DAT.

14 November, 08:00 at Q Battery.

6 November - Illuminating Rounds: A trial at Q Battery on 6 November will involve airborne ammunition which is designed to illuminate large areas and so you may notice something similar to distress signals/flares up to 3km out to sea.

Power cut – 9 October 2018: The fault that caused the feed into the substation at Fleet to fail is still being investigated by UK Power Networks and QinetiQ. Currently the entire Range is reliant on the single feed into Blackgate.

Havengore Bridge: Currently this is closed to marine traffic. The health and safety documentation for the remedial works is going through our hazard process review.

Let Estate Funding: The budget to maintain the let estate has now been released by the MOD. The jobs that have been on hold will start to be done but please be patient whilst we clear the backlog.

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

John Watson, Parish Clerk
Foulness Island Parish Council
86 Southchurch Boulevard
Southend on Sea
Essex, SS2 4UZ

Tel: 07757 484225

e-mail: foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk

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Christmas Greetings

As we have done for a number of years recently, if you would like collectively to reduce your carbon footprint and put Christmas Greetings to fellow residents in this newsletter, please leave your chosen message in the letterbox at Old Hall Farm by 18th November – deadline for the December newsletter. This would save a rainforest or two, and save on delivery fuel and postage for you. Of course, if you offer any small portion of those savings as a donation towards printing costs it won't be turned down!

If you had greetings inserted last year your Editor proposes to use the same message as last year. If you wish to change the wording or are no longer on 'greetings terms' with your neighbours please let her know as soon as possible!

If you have recently moved onto the island, this is a way of letting the other village know who and where you are.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

Just a reminder that the next meeting of committee and interested friends will be on Tuesday 13th November at 7.30pm in the school house. Among other things, we'll be thinking about plans for next year. If you can help in any way your attendance will be very welcome.

The Centre is now closed to outside visitors for the winter while we spend time in refurbishing and changing our displays ready for 2019. If, as a resident, you have visitors over the winter and would dearly love to show them what you know is in the Centre, do please have a word with Denise or Peter – maybe we can help you.

Free to a good home

I have in the garden a load of plants of *verbena bonariensis* – yes, it's a mouthful and I wish I knew a snappier name for that tall mauve plant that waves

gracefully at the back of the flower bed.

I've acquired far more plants than I need and if you're thinking of adding some height at the back of a flower bed, please come and see me at Hall Farm. Your garden will be a much better place for the plants than on our compost heap. And under the banner of 'free to a good home' it'll be better than £3.99 a plant in a garden centre.

Denise

Foulness – Did you know?

Signal Cottage

Signal Cottage, which dates from about 1800, was built in the time of the Napoleonic Wars. It was for the use of the officer in charge of troops or volunteers in charge of a series of signal stations stretching from Yarmouth to Southampton. The idea was that, in the event of a possible invasion by the French, messages could be passed from one station to another, each one being built within sight of the next.

There were two bases on Foulness, originally manned by the members of the Rochford Hundred Volunteers. There was

one at Asplin's Head, and it is reckoned that Walter Linnet's Cottage over on Dengie was another in the chain.

It is recorded that the indiscipline among the volunteers was such that a house had to be built for an officer to be put in charge of them. When they had been inspected it had been found that they were 'frequently not about their duties, but were to be found drinking, poaching or wenching'.

Over the years the building deteriorated but repair work was done on it in the late 1990s and there is a good record concerning the house in the Heritage Centre.

**Foulness Tide Times
November 2018**

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 3	08.03	4.9	20.40	5.3
Sun 4	09.16	5.2	21.47	5.6
Sat 10	01.17	5.9	13.34	6.0
Sun 11	01.52	5.7	14.11	5.8
Sat 17	06.28	4.5	19.23	4.6
Sun 18	07.49	4.6	20.30	4.9
Sat 24	00.17	5.8	12.35	6.0
Sun 25	00.59	5.9	13.17	6.1

Foulness – the years of change

It may have reached you on the grapevine that the Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society has been putting together a book to cover the period of the 1950s and 1960s. It's called "Foulness – the years of change", as indeed they were.

The idea for the book came about because a visitor to the Centre last July, one who used to live here as a child when his father was a WD policeman, was asking if we had any information, a booklet perhaps, on the '50s and '60s. We started to gather information for a booklet, and just like Topsy, 'it grewed'.

This book is now available, some 140 pages of it. You may be interested in seeing what has been written, or you may think it might make a useful Christmas present for a friend who lives further away.

The Heritage Centre will be open for sales on Saturday 17th November between 10.30 and 12.30, and the book will be on sale there at a special resident's early price of £7.50. It will be more expensive next year when

it goes on sale to the general public at our Open Days.

If you're new to the island, it's a way of learning a bit more about this place you've chosen to come and live in.

If you are not able to make that date and time, and would still like a copy of the book, ring 217836 after that date (but before Christmas) and we'll sort you out a copy and discuss delivery.

Like all books, there'll be those who read it and say "You've got that wrong". Well, if we sell all those we've printed we can amend our mistakes in the next edition!

The Curse of the Commentator

"I've never heard a silence like that before."

Glenn Hoddle, BT Sport

"The penalties are coming thick and fast. That's two!"

Eddie Hemmings, Sky Sport

"He came with a square hole and tried to fit it into a round box"

Peter Schmeichel, TalkSport

"They're cutting through ... like a butter through knife."

Steve Claridge Radio 5 Live

Commentating on a horse race:
"Kilcullen Flem is on his hands and knees"

Commentator At the Races

Have you tried ...

Toulouse

15, The Leas

Westcliff-on-sea

SS0 8FE

☎ 01702 333731

A wet Saturday night in October, we went with friends to the above restaurant as we hadn't visited it for quite a while.

Having booked for 6.30pm we were shown a table and the restaurant was already quite busy with early diners.

We ordered a bottle of Pinot Grigio (£24.00) which we all know is so much cheaper at the supermarket, and the men had gins and tonics (£10.90).

Having chosen what we were going to eat, the starters duly arrived – 2 kipper pates and 2 tian of crab – all nicely presented in the serving, and at a reasonable £7 each. Having been to another local restaurant the Saturday before we had found their starters ranged from £6.95

to £9.95, and those in Toulouse were more generous.

Our main course arrived rather too quickly for all our likings but we coped. Two of us had baked cod, one chose a sirloin steak and the other had a pork medallion, which personally I didn't think was that special.

We then asked the waitress if we could have a break so that our meals could be digested; she agreed to this.

After a while she came back with the sweet menu and between us we had three panna cottas and a treacle sponge, all of which were delicious.

Coffee was offered so we had 2 Americanos and a Latte - £7.80 together – and a glass of house white wine - £6.50. The total bill came to £181.20; you had the choice to add a tip if you wished.

During the evening the restaurant had kept filling up and as we were near the entrance it was a bit draughty, and not every table had been taken. Toulouse does special offers during the week and of course parking is currently free along the sea front

after 6pm, so that makes a difference.

I enjoyed the evening but did think - just like the previous restaurant the Saturday earlier – that it was a bit expensive and noisy, so maybe we will try one of their weekday evening specials next time.

And finally ... A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the village shop. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, “Good morning, young man, can you tell me where the Post Office is, please?”

The little boy replied, “Certainly – just go straight down this street and turn to your right.”

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, “I’m the new vicar. I’d like you and your family to come to church on Sunday and I’ll show you all how to get to heaven.”

The little boy replied with a chuckle, “You’re kidding me, right? You don’t even know the way to the Post Office.”