

# *Foulness Island*

*October 2017*

At this time of year churches over the country have been celebrating Harvest Festival; those of us who regularly attended that service on here in years past do miss that particular celebration.

However you think about farming and harvest, you do still need to be fed – there are few of us who could forage for our entire diet from the fields and countryside about us. In farming, the soil is fundamental. There are areas about the island where still can be detected the places where gypsum was piled after the '53 flood, ready to be used to try to get the soil back into good heart. But the sheer labour of man, muscle, machine and knowhow that goes into the preparation of the soil to produce the right crop is all important and consuming. On a much smaller scale, for example, the gardener will know that there are some soils that you can grow azaleas in, and other soils where the plant would curl up its toes and die immediately. Consider all that is needed, and Shredded Wheat can never be the same again; the way you think about food stuff we take for granted must bring a whole dimension of careful consideration and thanksgiving into a perspective of life.

Jesus talked about the importance of soil, paralleled from the production of crops, and went on to consider the ways in which your heart responds to God's love for each of us. What does it take to produce a heart that welcomes God's word and produces a good crop of a fruitful life in consequence? What ploughing and ground preparation are needed for us to get these hearts of ours more receptive to the deepest mysteries of life?

Perhaps you might ferret out that old Bible you have tucked away somewhere and re-read Mark chapter 4 v 20.

### **In Memoriam**

*In October  
we remember*

*Carole Addley  
Ken Christie  
Eric Lilley  
Joyce Lilley  
Ada Ellen Rawlings  
Dinah Rawlings  
Norman (Sam) Self  
Charlie Thornton*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### **Foulness Parish Council**

#### **Council Matters**

Council approved the payment requests for the month of September and also noted the receipts for the month. Copies of both schedules can be found on our website.

Council considered a letter from the Essex Air Ambulance and agreed to make a donation of £50.

It was noted that the procedure to make payments in respect of

compensation claims regarding the major power failure on the Island had still not been finalised. Council expressed their disappointment at the time it was taking to finalise this matter.

The Clerk reported that, as agreed, he had issued a questionnaire to all parishioners to find out whether they would like some form of Post Office Service on the Island. Over 25% of parishioners had responded and the response had been 100% in favour of some form of post office services being provided. The Clerk would be writing to County Councillor Mike Steptoe to inform him of the outcome of the questionnaire.

The Clerk also advised that the External Audit report had been received with no comments or criticisms. A copy of the report has been posted to the notice boards and can also be found on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Tony Porter reported that he and Councillor Bob Green had attended the start of the Foulness bike ride.

## **QinetiQ report**

*Early Start:* DAT will start at 8.30am on 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September and on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September.

*Scrub clearance:* this will take place at DAT on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. This will involve land closures.

*Essential Services:* No power or water interruptions are expected.

*Public Rights of Way:* For the requirements of an on-going trial, Public Rights of Way in Land Areas 3 & 4 will remain closed.

*Nazewick area trial:* these trials will start again from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September and will possibly continue into October.

*Tree work* will be carried out in Churchend but the start date is dependent on receiving approval from Rochford District Council.

*Verges* are continuing to be cut.

*Rotary Club Bike Ride:* there had not been any reported incidents arising from this ride.

*Havengore Bridge:* The bridge had been out of action for longer than expected on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September because the manual back-up system had failed. Measures were being put in place to ensure that this did not happen again.

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## **Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society**

The Heritage Centre will be open to the public for the last time this year on the first Sunday in October between 12 and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there with your visitors, and maybe having to 'shoo' you out at the end, as we had to last time we were open, so engrossed were our visitors.



You will remember that we have on sale a number of items that might interest friends and family living further away, and if you are already thinking about Christmas presents (and shops elsewhere are already beginning to display their Christmas wares) that first Sunday of October may be an opportunity to solve one or two present ideas. We look forward to seeing you.

Meanwhile please note the date of our next 'committee and friends' meeting: - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

**Foulness Tide Times  
October 2017**

	AM	height	PM	height
Sun 1	09.22	4.6	22.01	4.9
Sat 7	01.43	6.0	14.00	6.1
Sun 8	02.23	6.0	14.40	6.1
Sat 14	07.42	4.8	20.23	5.1
Sun 15	09.12	4.9	21.48	5.3
Sat 21	01.41	5.9	13.56	5.9
Sun 22	02.14	5.8	14.29	5.9
Sat 28	05.46	4.7	18.29	4.7
Sun 29	05.54	4.5	18.47	4.6

*Adjustment made for Summer Time*

**They lived on Foulness**

**Miss Phoebe Webb**

Not exactly star of stage, screen and television, but there are several television programmes in which Phoebe figured, and more than one newspaper article; the Editor still has to hand the one in the Southend Star from 1962, in the days when Phoebe still cycled round to deliver the newspapers. The article was extolling in particular her skill in making home-made wines.

Among the many kindnesses she did, Phoebe would look after the three War Graves in the churchyard. One evening her bike was propped against the wall while she popped into the pub for a lemonade after grass-cutting. Two local children mocked up a 'parking ticket' for the bike. Phoebe was sharp enough to know just who was responsible: when the papers were delivered the next day to the parents' house, they were embellished with a note: "Don't know if I can deliver tomorrow; I'm in court".

The producer of one of the television programmes in which

she appeared would always remember her birthday, and he made a special journey to attend her funeral when she died in her late 80s.

She lived in the same house in Churchend all her life and never lost her strong Foulness accent. At one point in her life she worked for Mrs Eliza Belton at Hall Farm, and a visitor to the Heritage Centre a few years ago recounted how Phoebe had told her that Mrs Belton had remonstrated with her for not having polished the brass studs on the mattress when cleaning. How life has changed!

#### **The curse of the commentator**

“You need to put your hands into the FIA’s shoes”

*Paul di Resta, SkySports*

“The referee said he was 15 metres away. That’s what, 30 or 40 yards” *Steve Bower, BBC1*

“Bournemouth made 11 changes from their last game, and that’s a big chunk of their team.”

*Dion Dublin BT Sport*

“The EU sells us more than we buy from them”

*Jacob Rees-Mogg Radio 2*

“These are rough amounts of snow – it could be zero, it could be double that”

*Tomasz Schafernaker BBC1*

“The 1980s vocal harmony group, Harvey and the Ball Wangers, have reunited”

*Continuity announcer Radio 4*

#### **Have you tried ...**

Mim Spice  
32, High Street, Gt Wakering  
01702 216656  
[www.mimspice.co.uk](http://www.mimspice.co.uk)

On the spur of the moment we decided to have an evening meal at Mim Spice in Wakering. Although it was a Friday night we were able to get a table without a booking. However the restaurant was busy so a reservation would be advisable in future.

We had the inevitable poppadoms as an appetiser. They came with the usual selection of pickles and chutneys – all very enjoyable accompanied with good conversation.

For the first course I had the *Tandoori Lamb Chops* which were delicious with a lovely

crispy skin. My wife had the *Chicken Pakora* which she said was excellent.

I struggled to choose a main course from the extensive list of Chef's Specialities. In the end I plumped for the *Amm Bujon*, which is a sweet dish of chicken cooked with almonds and mango in a sauce, topped with honey. I had this with a portion of pilau rice. The chicken was really tender and the sweet sauce had just the right gentle amount of spice for me.

My wife and 2 year old daughter both had the *Kuku Coco Paka*, a dish supposedly from Nepal. It's chicken, cooked with coconut and fresh cream. My daughter likes a curry spicier than I do and cleared her entire plate – clearly she enjoyed it!

We do have to say that service was a bit slow, no doubt because the restaurant was so busy. The wait between courses certainly wasn't excessive and we'd taken some toys to keep our daughter entertained so she was happy.

Mim Spice's extensive menu is available for take-away. The food is based on the Bangladeshi

cuisine, and it's possible to order online and then collect the take-away. We'll certainly try it the next time we're feeling too lazy to cook.

**And finally ....** Three churches in town were overrun by squirrels. After much prayer, the elders of the first church determined that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? The elders did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the second church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

The third church succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The elders simply baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now the elders only see the squirrels at Christmas and Easter.

*Items (articles, adverts, 'free to a good home', opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the November newsletter these should be with Denise at Old Hall Farm by 18<sup>th</sup> October.*