

Foulness Island

September 2017

How quickly it seems that another summer has slipped by! Arriving as silently as an owl on the wing, September will be with us once again. The closing days of the summer school holiday are filled with the activity of mums and dads fitting out their protesting children in readiness for the new school term. By contrast university entrants await their day with enthusiasm, youthful optimism and an awakening sense of adventure.

In our gardens branches hang heavy with plums and apples, tomatoes ripen on the truss, and in the sky above birds begin their annual gathering in readiness for migration. A season of change, a season of ripening. How blessed we are to be able to experience the changing seasons as all of nature is open to us on this island.

If we but step back a while from the activity which fills our lives, creation can open our eyes and minds to so much more. If we but look up on a starry night, instead of rushing to get the door open so we can get indoors, we can see the beauty of a night sky, and it gives us an opportunity to ponder the awe and mystery, the wonder of creation. Perhaps you might give it more than a passing thought next time you arrive home in the dark with the clearest of skies above you.

Mr Derek Shuttlewood

It is with great sadness that we note the sudden recent passing of Derek (Ackie) Shuttlewood, after a period of failing health.

Grandson of Joe Lilley, then foreman at Tree Farm, Derek left school at 14 and began work on the farm, at wages of 25 shillings (£1.25) a week. He moved to work in Surrey, along with other extended family members, but missed the island so much that he came back within a short while. He worked for IF Burroughs & Sons at Rugwood for 44 years until retirement.

Living at Little Newlands at the time of the '53 flood, Derek helped rescue members of the nearby Rawlings family.

He had married Ena (Dinkey) Dyer in 1954 and they have a close-knit family of three married daughters, giving them much-loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Proud of his garden, it hurt that he could no longer care for it, a real Foulness man.

Derek will be fondly remembered by many, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family as they realize what a hole he will have left in all their lives.

In Memoriam

*In September
we remember*

*Carole Addley
Percy (Tom) Belton
Henry Hume
Herbert Hume
Betty Lilley
Beryl Mead
Grace Nicholls
Lilian Rawlings
Ivy Savile*

Gone but not forgotten

Congratulations

Warm congratulations are due to the Revd Kim Lepley on being appointed priest-in-charge of St Andrew's Rochford, St Nicholas Great Wakering, St Mary's Foulness, All Saints Barling Magna and St Mary's Little Wakering.

Thank You

In the July magazine there was a request for someone to take over the care of the War Memorial.

David and Ruth are grateful for the very prompt response and the immediate offer to take on what

David and Ruth have done for so many years. When thanked, the person concerned replied that the care of the Memorial would be a privilege. David and Ruth would like to express their thanks for the later offers as well.

Foulness Parish Council

Council Matters

July Meeting.

Council approved the payment requests for the months of June and July and also noted the receipts for those two months. Copies of both schedules can be found on our website.

The Clerk was authorised to go out to tender for maintaining the Parish Burial Ground for the 2018/2019 season.

It was noted that the procedure to make payments in respect of compensation claims regarding the major power failure on the Island had still to be agreed. The Clerk had written a letter of complaint to QinetiQ but had not received a response.

The Clerk advised the meeting that he would be issuing a questionnaire to all parishioners to find out whether they would

like some form of Post Office Service on the Island.

August Meeting

Council approved the bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2017, the Income and expenditure account for the same period and the payment requests for July/August. All these documents can be found on the website. There were no receipts to report.

The Play Area Inspection Report issued by Playsafety Ltd was reviewed by Council and it was noted that all risks were low or very low.

The Council also discussed improvements to the playground but, because there were legal issues to take into consideration, this was discussed in closed session.

QinetiQ report

July meeting:

There will be an early start (8 am) at DAT on 18th to 20th July, 25th July and 1st August.

There will be a late finish at Q Battery on 4th August.

No power or water interruptions are expected.

Compensation will be paid for power outage. Domestic £75 plus £30 compensation and non-domestic £150 plus £30 compensation. This will be paid by a credit on the electricity accounts.

Contractors have been appointed for the new build at ETC. It is unlikely that the contractors would start in July. The site compound will be set up at Nazewick. Work is expected to take 12 months.

QQ is awaiting clarification regarding the responsibilities in respect of gutter clearance at commercial properties.

August meeting:

Early start at Q Battery (7.30am) on 18th August.

Early start (8.30am) at DAT on 13th to 15th September.

Sunday activity is expected at Rugwood Battery. There will be operational road closures.

There will be road closures during the day from 4th to 8th September.

No power or water interruptions are expected.

Compensation regarding the power outage will be paid on application if the account is in credit. If the account is in debit the compensation will be used to pay this.

Two empty properties will be holding viewings on 12th and 13th September. Refurbishment will commence on two properties in September.

Contractors will be on site at ETC at the end of August.

Information regarding overhanging trees has been reported to the help desk.

New Mitie personnel receive four days induction.

John Watson
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Tel: 07757 484225

e-mail: foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk

Children's Society boxes

Following the receipt of money from one last box, Denise would like to note that the final total for the collection this year was the wonderful sum of £682.74.

Thank you

David and Ruth would like to thank everyone for the cards, presents and good wishes on our move to Great Wakering. We have settled in well and like our flat. We miss the Island and our friends. Old Hall Farm Cottage will always be "home" but we are not far away. We will always be back and forth, but life has to change. Once again, thank you.

Love, David and Ruth

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

We've just about got our breath back from the very busy open day at the beginning of August when it seemed the whole world and his wife came to see us. If you called in on that day to have a look at the cars brought over by the Southend Classic Car Club you will know just how busy we were. We were grateful for the extra helping hands that day.

Now we're busy gearing up for the September opening.

In the light of the recent commemorations concerning the centenary of the Battles of the Somme, may we ask if any of you have any information or family stories concerning those whose names are on the War Memorial? If there is anything you can add to our local knowledge we should be most grateful to receive it, so that future generations may know more about those who lived here and gave their lives for us. We have put together a booklet about those men; it may be read in the Heritage Centre. If you have any scraps of information please contact anyone you know who is a regular at the Centre.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday September 12th at 7.30pm. Please come along – you'll be welcome.

Summer Barbecue

Following this very happy gathering, many verbal 'thank yous' have been received, as well as the following written ones:

Ann would like to thank Belton Bros Ltd and IF Burroughs and Sons for providing muscle and manpower to erect the tents, Max for a hundred and one things (!), Husky for manning the hot coals with so much panache and everyone else who helped in any way to make the afternoon such a happy one. The weather even helped out too.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the FCAS BBQ such a great success, with particular thanks to Ann and Husky for their hard work on the day!

We are sure that everyone would agree that the food was delicious and are equally sure that nobody left hungry!

It was a lovely afternoon and great to meet with both familiar and new faces. Very much looking forward to the next get together!

Many thanks,

Laura, Ben, Milly and Bonnie

The FCAS has also received a wonderful hand-made 'thank you' card from Ray and Kathy Fry.

It would seem as if the attendees all enjoyed themselves.

Got a Moan?

If you have an occasion to complain (heaven forbid!) about either QinetiQ repair staff or the new persona of the guard force, there should be a response on Careline 0800 056 0108 or from Nicki Uden email NUDEN@qinetiq.com

Foulness Tide Times September 2017

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 2	10.10	4.8	22.42	5.0
Sun 3	11.09	5.1	23.35	5.3
Sat 9	02.49	5.9	15.05	6.0
Sun 10	03.27	5.9	15.41	5.9
Sat 16	09.26	4.9	21.59	5.3
Sun 17	10.45	5.2	23.12	5.6
Sat 23	02.44	5.9	15.00	6.0
Sun 24	03.19	5.8	15.34	6.0
Sat 30	07.56	5.6	17.22	5.5

Rotary Club Bike Ride

We understand that the Bike Ride is scheduled to take place on 10th September this year, following the same route as last year.

Currently we do not have start times, but you will realise that if you normally go to get a paper you will need to get up with the lark to avoid the chaos that ensues when a large number of cyclists come on here, having been fed the suggestion that our roads are traffic-free. These leisure cyclists seem to find the idea of cars actually trying to go places on here something of a surprise. Please take even more care on the road than usual – you're bound to meet someone who thinks that their two wheels give them a divine right over your four.

If you have visitors coming that day, please warn them about possible lengthy queues at Landwick. Your children will need to be even more vigilant if they are out and about in the villages, with more road traffic than usual.

They lived on Foulness

Rev Thomas Archer

In days gone by, before the building of the bridge, what with its bare-knuckle fights and its reputed smuggling, Foulness was perhaps not the most law-abiding of places, and certainly not a place of keen church-goers. The Rev Thomas Archer was perhaps the sort of man to cope with this situation.

He soon became a familiar figure, riding everywhere on the horse he used for hunting, and smoking his white clay pipe. During services, he would leave it in a niche in the porch, ready to be lit again once the service was over. A larger-than-life character, he was also known to indulge in fist-fights of his own with problematic parishioners.

He enjoyed the hunting Foulness afforded and it was not unknown for him to wear his hunting clothes under his surplice if a service clashed with a hunt, so he could join in the chase immediately the service was over.

He died in 1832 at the age of 82, and his funeral service was very well attended by people mourning the loss of a great character. He was buried in the chancel of his church, the one which predates the present building.

Information taken from *The Islands of Essex* by Ian Yearsley.

Ploughing match

We know that many of you who read this newsletter like to get to the annual ploughing match of the Rochford Hundred Agricultural Society, whether it be to look at the heavy horses, wander round the display stands or catch up with friends seen all too rarely. Since the weather forced the cancellation of the match for the last two years, we have our fingers crossed for this year.

This year's gathering will be at Hawkwell Hall Farm, Rectory Road, Hawkwell, SS5 4LL. It's on Saturday September 23rd starting at around 9am, but there should be something of interest for you up till about 2.30-3pm. Apart from the various ploughing classes, in which we offer our local entries the best of

luck, there will be trade stands, craft stalls and other displays, as well as the afore-mentioned heavy horses.

Restaurant Reviews

We have heard that there is an African restaurant (advertising itself as such) not far from the Palace Theatre. If any readers of this magazine are brave enough to give the place a try, we'd love to hear from you – it would be a review of a restaurant well away from the normal run of things.

Harvest

At the time of writing, some of us are still trying to finish harvest, after the very changeable weather we have had recently. What happened to those blazing days of June? But then, some of us older ones can remember when harvest regularly ended towards the end of September.

So on behalf of all who farm on Foulness, may we thank all road users for having given way to tractors and trailers during this very busy period. If you're working a 14-hour day, 7 days a

week, you need some allowance from others. Your courtesy, patience and good humour have helped us along the way to what we hope will soon be this year's Harvest Home. If you got stuck behind what seemed like a slow tractor and trailer, be consoled by the fact that fast food has to start somewhere, even if it starts slowly.

Peter Carr
Belton Bros Ltd

The curse of the commentator

"They were like honeys round a bee pot" Terry O'Connor, *SkySports*

"Half of one, six a dozen of the other" Ian Dennis, *Radio 5 Live*

"Dortmund's a great place to play football ... I was there for England v Poland; Germany won." Mark Saggers, *TalkSport*

"That's rubbing insult into the wound" Niall Quinn, *SkySports*

Have you tried ...

We printed a review of this restaurant a few months ago, but since we have been offered a fresh insight into it, it seems worth giving you another person's view of the place.

Padrino's
7 Shorefield Road
Westcliff-on-sea SS0 7RH
01702 345891
www.padrinosouthend.co.uk

We recently enjoyed an evening meal in Padrino's Italian restaurant in Westcliff. We chose it as it was recommended as being child-friendly and they certainly made out 2-year-old welcome. We were also lucky enough to have a table with a view across the river.

The menu is very extensive with all that you would expect from an Italian restaurant. There were also a lot of extra options on the daily specials board.

For starters I had the *Antipasto Italiano*, a selection of Italian cured meats which was really too large for a starter. My wife had the *Gamberoni Piccanti*, king prawns cooked in a garlic, chilli, tomato and white wine sauce. She pronounced it to be excellent.

Our daughter has quite an adventurous taste so we chose one of the main course meals for her instead of something from the children's menu. This came with our starters so she could eat

with us and take her time to work through the plateful.

For mains I had the *Pollo Valdostani*, a chicken breast cooked with white wine, topped with ham and fontina cheese. My wife chose the *Vitello al Limone*, pan fried veal cooked with lemon butter and white wine. Both plates were served with a very nice selection of vegetables.

All three of us had desserts from the specials board. They were generous portions and looked home-made.

All in all, we would certainly recommend Padrino's for a good night out. Booking would be advisable as it was busy on the mid-week evening we chose.

Waking Autumn Show

If this is printed and delivered in time, there's just space to remind you of the Show on Bank Holiday Monday - details in the Waking Community Newsletter. The flowers and vegetables are always something to admire, so go and have a look if you can make time.

And finally Joe is passing by Mick's hay barn one day when, through a gap in the door, he

sees Mick doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old Massey tractor. Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette and then gently slides off first the right wellie, followed by the left.

He then hunches his shoulders forward in a classic striptease move and lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers.

Grabbing both sides of his checked shirt he rips it apart to reveal his tea-stained vest underneath, and with a final flourish he hurls his flat cap onto a pile of hay.

"What on earth are you doing, Mick?" asks Joe. "Gawd, mate, you frightened the living daylights out of me," says an obviously embarrassed Mick. "Me and the Missus have been having some trouble lately in the bedroom department and the therapist suggested I should do something sexy to a tractor."

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