

# *Foulness Island*

*June 2018*

As the years pass, there are fewer of us who can remember the time when there was a king on the throne of this country rather than a queen. Some of us can remember crowding into a neighbour's house to watch the Coronation on a TV whose screen would have been smaller than those sets people pop into a kitchen these days. And for you younger ones, it was all in black and white.

So the Coronation was in June 1953 and by wonderful synchronicity just as Everest was climbed for the first time, and before that there was the sad time in February 1952 when the world was told of the death of King George VI. Because of the way that communications have developed, there will be fewer of us who can actually remember what that king's voice sounded like – and I don't count the performance in *The King's Speech*, good though the film may have been.

But we have all heard the Queen's voice, and through television have seen her speak. We have seen recordings of her speech when she reached 21, and recordings of her first speech after the death of her father. In those recordings she spoke of her determination to devote herself to her subjects, to behave as she saw her duty to be. Whether we be a royalist or a republican, a Cavalier or a Roundhead, as it were, none can deny that this elderly woman has indeed devoted her life to what she sees to be her duty. We must all be thankful for the way she has seen her duty.

The Heritage Centre  
Foulness  
SS3 9XQ  
☎ 01702 217836

May 2018

Dear Resident/s

**Invitation for an Island Tour**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The FCAS is doing a guided tour of the Island especially for Residents, and we would love to include you. This is a tour we have done lots of times for groups and societies who are interested in knowing something about Foulness. So, if you are curious about the history, geography or natural history of the island, the place where you live, then come along and join us.

Time: 2.00pm  
Meeting place: Heritage Centre  
Length of tour: About 2 hours

Best wishes

Peter Carr  
Chairman, Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

### Mr Norman Shelley

It is with sadness that we note the recent passing of Norman Shelley after a long period of ill-health.

Although Norman no longer lived on Foulness, he was born here in 1937, at Foxes Farm, and moved to 13 Courtend when he was three.

After schooling on Foulness, he worked for a year on a farm, but then the '53 floods prevented farm work so he worked for the government on the sea wall. After completing his National Service he returned to work for the government and stayed there till he retired through ill health at the age of 60.

Norman and his wife Sheila decided to move and lived in Little Wakering for 12 years and then moved to Goodmans.

Norman loved gardening and his garden on Foulness was immaculate, a great credit to him. He loved sport, especially football and cricket.

Our thoughts are with Sheila and his children and grandchildren at this sad time.

### In Memoriam

*In June we remember*

*Frank Cook*

*Betty Dent*

*Eunice (Tibby) Hume*

*Andrew Lilley*

*Alf Rawlings*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### Sunday Worship

Since Rev Alun Hurd moved to a group of parishes in the Lake District we have been very much aware that Rev Kim Lepley is doing a job that had previously been shared between two people. To try to lessen the burden, we have chosen to move from monthly to occasional acts of worship on Foulness. Consequently there will be no June service. Our next gathering will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> July – please make a note of this date and look for further details in next month's newsletter.

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

*Denise*

## **Foulness Parish Council**

There was no Council meeting in May. The next informal meeting for residents with DIO/QinetiQ will be on 13<sup>th</sup> June commencing at 7.00pm, followed by a Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.

### **QinetiQ Report to Foulness Residents' May Meeting**

**Early Starts:** 23 & 24 May 2018, 08:30 at DAT  
5-7 June 2018, 08:30 at DAT

**Late Finishes – 14-25 May:** Range activity is likely to continue into the evening at the LTF. This means that all Public Rights of Way routes in Land Area one including Wakering Stairs Road and Havengore Bridge will remain closed until work is complete and the Red Flags have been lowered.

**Road Closures – 15-17 May:** There will be periodic closures on the spine road between Jerrywood and Taylors Hut. Short delays are expected: a maximum of 45 minutes is hoped for (so long as there are no hiccups) but a shorter period may well be likely.

**ETC New Build:** On schedule to be completed by mid-July. Increase in HGVs as materials are brought in to build traverses.

## **Sundry information from Group Property**

Severn Trent will be replacing a broken main/stopcock near the pond in Churchend. It is not thought that the isolation will affect any housing as the line is for the pub and post office and towards ETC. No date confirmed by Severn Trent but probably next week.

It's been noted that BT have been coming onto the island a lot lately looking at their infrastructure. It is believed they want to do some upgrades (so if there's any interruption in your service it may be in relation to this). Nothing to do with QQ, just an observation.

On a coming Saturday in May, (date to be confirmed) a large crane will be on the island during maintenance work to the Radar Tower.

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](mailto:foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk](http://www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk)

### **Community First Responders**

I would like to sincerely thank our retiring First Responder for his years of service to this small community. I am one of many living here who have had reason to be very grateful for his calm and reassuring presence in times of trouble. Thank you, Gary.

*Ann Abbott*

The above 'thank you' is typical of several we have received on Gary's impending retirement from helping us all. If you have not needed him, be very grateful. I am one of those who have needed him and his former helpers on more than one occasion, for more than one generation. We won't embarrass Gary by being too effusive, but we are all grateful and hope desperately that someone will be willing to try to fill his shoes.

*Editor*

### **Newsletter deadline**

There will not be an August newsletter. If you have something in mind for insertion in the newsletter, please think ahead and

get the information to Denise at Hall Farm by 18<sup>th</sup> June for insertion in the July edition.

### **Foulness – Did you know?**

#### ***Havengore Bridge***

Our bridge is thirty years old this year, older than some of our residents. It replaced an earlier bridge put in place 1919-1920. Traces of the old one can just be seen if you know where to look.

The carriageway of the old one was only 14 feet (4.25m) wide; the current bridge is 24 feet (7.3m) wide. The previous bridge had got into such a perilous state that the maximum load was 15 tons at any one time on the bridge. Apart from other problems, this made life difficult for our farmers: grain lorries had to be loaded at Landwick by taking trailer loads of grain to them as, loaded, the lorries were much heavier than 15 tons. The new bridge was built to the maximum required by British Standards – 180 ton per span.

The previous bridge had brought the first permanent access to Foulness. Before that time, the

Broomway had to be used, with all its risks and limitations. The alternative was a trip to Burnham by boat. Nevertheless, residents were not totally hampered: there are records in the Heritage Centre of locals playing cricket against teams in the London area prior to the building of the bridge.

The bridge is needed because Havengore Creek is considered to be a navigable waterway and provides access for boats, linking the Thames and the Roach and Crouch; the alternative would be a huge undertaking - because of the shallowness of the water boats coming from the Thames would have to go miles out beyond Foulness Point to access areas in the Roach and Crouch.

The grand official opening of the bridge took place in November 1988, to some considerable ceremony. The invited guests assembled at the Hovercraft Hangar in P&EE, Shoeburyness and, after light refreshments and the obligatory presentation regarding the building of the bridge, were taken by coach to the new bridge. The official opening was carried

out by General Sir John Stibbon, KCB, OBE, Master General of the Ordnance.

Following his speech and the cutting of the ribbon, the bascule was lifted and this was heralded by a fanfare from 6 trumpeters from the King's Own Borderers and the firing of two artillery guns. A flotilla of local boats passed through the bridge, the bridge was lowered and a parade of typical local vehicles, P&EE and farmers, crossed the bridge. There was a flypast of Harriers from RAF Wittering and guests returned to the Officers' Mess for a champagne reception.

You'll remember all this ceremony next time you're trapped the 'wrong' side of the bridge!

### **Happy Birthday!**

It hardly seems five minutes since we remarked in this newsletter on the number of babies born here in 1943, considering the relatively small population. We had cause to write about it as we noted that these 'babies' were reaching a significant birthday. Well, not five minutes but

five years have passed and they are all reaching another significant milestone so HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all!

### **Is summer on its way ...?**

If you have looked around your gardens and the nearby hedgerows, you may well by now 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 boxes and hedges birds sometimes choose the oddest place 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 and its contents after a late spring charity cycle ride.

It's upsetting for many to see fledglings and larger birds squashed on the road. (Did you notice the duck that had been run over the other week?) 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 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 newsletters elsewhere, 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

however small, will be welcome. Denise apologises for having given the wrong timing in this newsletter for the last meeting, though she did get it right on the minutes – one out of two is not good enough!

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

‘He closes his eyes and looks to the heavens.’

*David Lloyd, Sky Sports*

‘We are fifth in the league. This is Rangers. The least we should be is top.’

*Barry Ferguson, Radio Scotland*

‘Yeah, obviously his English weren’t great.’

*Wayne Rooney speaking about Fabio Capello, Talksport*

‘There are warnings of floods in the Looe area.’

*Sally Boazman, weather forecast for the West Country.*

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

Well, it became such a saga that I rather lost track!

We set out one spring evening to try *Route 5*, of which we’d heard good things, not only encouraging

comments on Trip Advisor but also we’d heard personal recommendations.

For us, the problem with this place was that it is in Sutton Road, and parking proved impossible. There was nowhere in Sutton Road itself, none of the side roads offered anything, and we didn’t have the courage to park on the Greyhound Estate, since there are so many notices threatening all kinds of punishment if you park and then leave the site. What’s more, as we drove past *Route 5* the person in the passenger seat reckoned they were shut – it looked like they were having a re-paint.

So we then remembered having heard there was a new Italian restaurant opening on Thorpe Bay Broadway. Off we went to suss out Eatalia – but they weren’t yet open – still work being done inside, though there is plenty of evidence of imminent opening – watch this space. Cafe Masala on the same side of the road didn’t look too encouraging either.

By then we’d not quite lost the will to live, but certainly didn’t feel like



small, would be much appreciated. Indeed, we are immensely grateful to those who have already made a donation 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, 'awaiting refurbishment') 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', a restaurant review, anything, it will be warmly welcomed by the Editor at Hall Farm.

### **Foulness Tide Times June 2018**

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 2	03.08	5.7	15.22	5.5
Sun 3	03.45	5.5	15.56	5.3
Sat 9	08.53	4.9	21.20	5.0
Sun 10	09.56	5.2	22.21	5.3
Sat 16	02.31	6.2	15.49	5.9
Sun 17	03.20	6.2	15.49	5.9
Sat 23	09.18	5.2	21.45	5.3
Sun 24	10.21	5.3	22.43	5.3
Sat 30	02.13	5.7	14.30	5.6

### **Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society**

The next opening of the Heritage Centre will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June from 12 till 4pm and we look forward to seeing you there. If you have visitors over the weekend the Centre is certainly somewhere to take them.

Our next Committee and Friends meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July in the Centre at 7.30pm. Do come along and join us if you are interested – you don't actually have to be a committee member to have any input and any offer of help,

driving aimlessly in the hope of coming across something that would provide a review for the editor, so we ended up at an old faithful – Khan's in Shoebury. We have learned over the years that it can always be depended upon to provide a simple, inexpensive curry when we feel in the mood for such things. They don't aim to be up-market, they provide the food with the minimum of fuss and don't keep coming to ask 'how do you find the meal?' which I think is aimed at the exact point the waiter can see you have your mouth full. We simply wanted somewhere to enjoy a meal, and Khan's hit the spot.

Restaurants in Southend seem to be getting more and more expensive, but we were able to have as much as (and possibly more than) we wanted or needed, for less than £40 for the two of us. We both had a starter, we both had a main course and a dessert, and we both had two drinks. What more could you want? Although we may not go there very often (one looks for a change occasionally) we hope it'll be there for years to come.

**And finally ....**Geoff enjoyed his work as a coach driver, particularly when he was taking senior citizens on their day-out jollies to the seaside or to stately homes.

About an hour into one journey, he felt a tap on his shoulder and a lady offered him a handful of peanuts. As he was partial to peanuts, he accepted them gratefully.

Then about an hour later, there came another handful, which he also enjoyed.

This became a regular, almost hourly, event, on both legs of the journey. On the fifth handful, he said to the lady, "Thank you, but why don't you eat them yourselves?"

"Oh, we like them all right, but our teeth won't let us eat them", the lady said, "but we like the chocolate that's round them."

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