

Foulness

Island

May 2018

Some of us are old enough to remember the first time a colour television came into the house. (Was the purchase or rental done for the Coronation, like so many other households did?) Oh, the excitement of looking forward to seeing in vivid colour a programme which we had hitherto seen only in black and white. So we settled down to watch in anticipation – colour! And there's more than one of us who can remember the voice issuing forth from the magic box – “The following film is in black and white”. Disappointment, unfulfilled expectations, a wasted effort,

frustration and irony filled the room in the moments that followed.

Immediately following Jesus' crucifixion the colour must have drained from His disciples' lives. With their future looking stark, they hid themselves away in that upper room behind locked doors, overcome by fear. However, as we know, their lives were to be changed as they experienced the presence of the resurrected Jesus in their midst. Thoughts and feelings of disappointment, unfulfilled expectations, waste, frustration and fear all melted away. The colour in their lives had returned. Other resurrection appearances continued. Their faith increased.

This month the Church celebrates on Whit Sunday the giving of God's Holy Spirit to the church. Christ called His disciples and asked them to further the work of the Church. May we look for a new meaning in our lives too.

It was again noted that these meetings would be held monthly commencing at 7.00pm. These would continue to take place in months where there could not be Council meetings.

Council Matters

April Meeting: The Parish Council held its meeting on 18th April 2018 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillor Elaine Pitts was unanimously elected Chair for 2018/19 and Councillor Gary Bickford was elected Vice Chair for 2018/19.

The meeting approved the bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2018 and the payment requests for March/April 2018. The Council also noted the receipts in March/April 2018. Copies of these documents can be found on our website.

The Council unanimously approved the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Return and also noted and approved the Internal Audit Report prepared by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

Council approved the Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year ending on 31st March 2018.

Council also unanimously approved the Certificate of

Exemption from the limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit Regulations 2015 and authorised the Clerk to submit this to the external auditors.

Council then unanimously approved Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) in the Annual Return and Section 2 (Accounting Statement) in the Annual Return.

Copies of all the above documents can be found on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk was authorised to write to DIO re transferring the lease in respect of the Play Area from the Parish Council to a Charitable Trust.

Discussions regarding the possible provision of Post Office facilities on the Island continue to be ongoing.

The Clerk gave a brief report on the new Data Protection regulations which were due to come into force on 25th May 2018.

The meeting then went into private session to discuss the tenders received in respect of the Parish Burial Ground. The results will be announced on the website when the participants had been advised.

In Memoriam

In May we remember

*Karl Arnold
Kathleen Burroughs
John Lilley
Andy MacIntyre
Ann Mahoney
John Mahoney
Walter (Sagey) Rawlings
June Stanford
Margaret Wood*

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness 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 followed at 7.30 pm by a Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

The following report was given by QinetiQ at 7.00 pm on 18th April.

There will be early starts (8.30am) at DAT on 24th April and 1st May, 2018.

Footpath 1b continues to be partially closed until approximately the end of June 2018. Land Areas 3 and 4 will be fully closed from 4th June until 30th September.

There were still intermittent faults with Havengore Bridge. Test lifts were being conducted every Thursday morning at 11.30(ish) until the problem was solved.

Work was continuing on digging out the roadside ditches. Residents were asked to report on any standing water on the roads.

Work on the ETC new build would involve heavier traffic on 19th April and the following week. Work would shortly commence on building the traverses. This would involve an increase in traffic.

Work had commenced on trying to fill in potholes.

Gutter cleaning would start in the week commencing 23rd April, 2018.

QinetiQ personnel were asked several questions.

No County or District Councillors were present to give a report.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 13th June 2018 beginning at 7.30 pm. This will be preceded by an informal meeting with QinetiQ which will commence at 7.00 pm.

There will be an informal meeting with QinetiQ on 9th May commencing at 7.00 pm.

All documents presented to Council can be viewed on the Parish Council website

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

We were pleased to see at the meeting Mrs Elsa Kite from DIO. She hopes to be able to attend meetings occasionally.

Children's Society Boxes

Towards the end of this month we have to think about emptying the Children's Society boxes which some of you have indoors to help children less fortunate than those you know personally.

If it is convenient, and you are passing Hall Farm, it would be helpful if you could leave your box inside the porch door. Every box delivered is one fewer that I have to collect, and you'd be surprised how heavy 20-odd boxes and their contents can be. Then I'll make a tour of the island and collect any remaining boxes and the total sent to Headquarters will be announced in the earliest newsletter I can manage, depending on how quickly I get all the boxes together.

If you don't have a box indoors and feel you might be able to support by putting a few pence aside each week, or whatever your system might be, I'll be more than pleased to talk to you about this; it would be nice not to have the number of our box-holders decrease. Thank you.

Denise

Community First Responders

I'm looking to 'retire', at the end of May, from the Community Response 'Team' after 18 years of service.

So this will be the final plea from me for volunteers to take up the mantle! The job is very rewarding, as you get to help someone, a neighbour, in their time of need.

All the initial training is done by the East of England Ambulance Service, at their HQ in Broomfield, and on-going training is done on line. The training teaches you to treat patients from the age of 8 up. It includes use of a semi-automatic defibrillator and use of oxygen. I have the full range of training equipment, kindly donated over the years by residents, and a large cabinet to keep it in! The equipment includes 3 x CPR mannequins (2 adult, one child), 1 x choking mannequin, training defibrillator, practice 'head' for inserting airways and lots of smaller training aids.

If you're interested in becoming a First Responder or even take on the role of Co-ordinator, then please contact the service directly:

Joshua Elias
☎ 07904 943371

However, if I don't hear from the Ambulance Service by the end of May to say that someone is interested, then I will return all ambulance service equipment to them and try to sell the other equipment, and give any proceeds to the Essex Air Ambulance.

I have enjoyed (if that's the right word) my time serving as a responder and would recommend

it to anyone with a sense of community spirit.

I wish everyone good health and give you my thanks for the support, both financially and to those who were part of the original 14 responder group 18 years ago.

Gary Bickford

Thank you

We would like to thank Ann, Husky, Gary and Jenna who came to help Leon after he fell down. Their care was first class. We are so grateful.

Joyce and Leon

Foulness – Did you know?

Maplin Airport

Those of us of a certain age can well remember the furore when Foulness or Maplin was proposed as a site for a third London Airport, with the possibility of a great dock complex as well. Other proposed sites were equally incensed by the suggestion of their village and they seemed to have the benefit of a larger, more moneyed population, so were able to call on greater resources to fight their case. Those fighting on behalf of Foulness felt very much the minnows and will

be forever grateful to those living a little further away, in particular Derrick Wood, who helped co-ordinate the battle.

John Smith's book "Foulness", published by the Essex Record Office, gives a good deal of insight into the matter, written at a time when nothing was finally decided. Even when a decision was made, matters underwent change, and now we all know that Stansted was chosen as the site instead. As locals, we could always think of reasons for "Say no to Foulness", and we need to keep saying it every time the idea resurfaces, as it does from time to time.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The next opening of the Heritage Centre will be on Sunday 6th May 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 8th May in the Centre at 8pm. 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, however small, will be welcome.

Foulness Tide Times May 2018

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 5	04.05	5.5	16.17	5.2
Sun 6	04.42	5.2	16.53	5.0
Sat 12	10.44	5.2	23.05	5.3
Sun 13	11.32	5.4	23.51	5.6
Sat 19	03.29	6.1	15.56	5.6
Sun 20	04.17	5.9	16.45	5.4
Sat 26	10.54	5.5	23.16	5.5
Sun 27	11.44	5.6	***	

The changing countryside

Spring seems to be well on its way, after the changeable months we have had recently, and there's a feeling that our summer winged visitors will soon be here, if they have not already arrived – have you heard a cuckoo yet?

The on-going plan by some farmers on here to develop more diverse habitat on the farmland continues to bear fruit. It's encouraging how many residents and visitors have commented on the teeming life in the 'bees and butterflies' areas. Other areas are sown to provide food for birds, even if they may look to be full of weeds or rubbish to the untrained eye. The sight of a cloud of linnets rising from one of those areas is quite something to see.

These areas are designed to encourage more diverse wild life. While we encourage people to walk the farm tracks and footpaths, we do ask you please to respect what we are trying to achieve. Enjoy the countryside but please be careful where you tread.

If you are walking your dog, please make sure it is under control. A nesting bird has enough to cope with – foxes, badgers, stoats, weasels, birds of prey, corvids and cats all wanting a meal. A playful dog does not need to be added to the list.

Have you tried

La Casetta, in Leigh?

We recently attended a social night of a club that we're members of. It was held at La Casetta, an Italian Restaurant. It's quite a way along the London Road in Leigh, so is it worth the trip?

Although it was a Saturday evening we easily found a parking place up a side street off London Road. The restaurant was busy, with our group of 17 people spread across two tables. We were allowed to order from the full menu, not a restricted one

so there were clearly enough staff in the kitchen to cope.

I had a very pleasant regional Italian beer while we waited for everyone to arrive.

For my starter I had the *Coppa Gamberetti*, an Italian take on a prawn cocktail. It was good, very similar to a "normal" prawn cocktail. It was served with some lovely warm, crusty fresh bread which would have been improved with some butter to spread on it.

My wife selected the *Mozzarella Fritta* – "Golden fried mozzarella coated with breadcrumbs, parmesan cheese and herbs". She said these were nice, but spoiled by the tomato sauce it was swimming in as that had made the mozzarella soggy.

For mains I had *Pollo Valdostana*, "Supreme of chicken breast baked with ham, mozzarella cheese and served with a tomato cream sauce". This was excellent and the accompanying sauce was just right.

My wife chose the *Maiale Marsala*, "Escalope of pork fillet served with a demi glace

mushroom and Marsala sauce, garnished with sauté potato and vegetables". She also really liked it.

We both chose puddings and really enjoyed them, although we've both forgotten what we had!

On nights other than Fridays and Saturdays there is a set menu for a fixed price of £17 which includes a glass of wine.

Although it's probably not worth the trip from Foulness to Leigh just to visit La Casetta, if you're in the area it's certainly worth a try.

La Casetta

1613 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2SQ

01702 477111

www.lacasetta.org.uk

And finally ... Sister Mary Ann from the local Catholic Church who also worked for a home support group for the elderly was out making her rounds visiting housebound patients in Bradford when she ran out of petrol.

Fortunately she remembered that there was a supermarket petrol station just around the corner.

So she walked to the filling station to borrow a petrol can and buy some fuel. The helpful attendant told her that the only can he had was out on loan but she could wait until it was returned, which he hoped would be shortly. Sister Mary Ann was on her way to see a needy patient so she decided not to wait, but walked back to her car.

She wondered if she'd got something in the car that she could, in desperation, fill with fuel, and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the elderly patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the petrol station, filled it with petrol and carried the full bedpan back to the car.

As she was pouring the fuel into her tank, two Bradford Muslims watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If that car starts, I'm converting to Catholicism".

Items (articles, adverts, 'free to a good home', opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the June newsletter these should be dropped in the letter box at Old Hall Farm by 18th May.