
Foulness Island

February 2020

Winter's Joys: Dark afternoons, cold wet winds and a growing awareness of the vulnerability of humans to the potential ravages of nature reminds us that Winter is here again after a mild and rainy autumn. For some there is the dread of discomfort from the cold and the need to balance comfort against heating costs. For others winter is seen as a time when life expires and a state of limbo exists until the first signs of spring appear. We hear that the short days have a physiological effect on some, resulting in chemical imbalance and depression. The dread of winter is experienced by all of us in some way, particularly following the joy of Christmas with those dreary months of January and February ahead.

Is there an alternative? Even if there are no snow-covered mountains on which to ski, there are still those beautiful clear, crisp days with bright blue skies that give the promise of the return of summer. There are those evenings of family togetherness round a fire. For all of us it's our state of mind that makes our view of the world change. Would you really enjoy life in the tropics where it's either hot and dry or hot and wet? Nice for short spells, but for the rest of your life?

We all need warmth but when the sun fails to meet our needs in winter we need to generate our own warmth, not only from fossil fuels and other energy sources, but from that warmth which comes from fellowship and faith. Let us make an effort to support one another, to offer help rather than criticism, and to remain cheerful, counting our blessings, rather than concentrating on the low temperatures and dampness.

In Memoriam

In February we remember

*Freda Arnold
Ernest Batten
Audrey Bird
Joyce Dobson
Vera and Walter Hume
Betty Lilley
Bernard Rawlings
Alec Willsmer*

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness Parish Council

The Council did not hold a meeting in January. See parish notice boards for date and time of the next meeting.

I would take this opportunity, however, to remind Parishioners that we do have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If anybody is interested please contact the Clerk.

QinetiQ Report

Foulness Residents' Report – January 2020 (no meeting)

Early Starts: 14-16 January at
DAT, 08:30 and
22 & 23 January at DAT, 08:30

Havengore Bridge Works: The
bridge remains closed to marine

traffic. The refurbishment programme will commence on Monday 3 February. The roadway will be restricted to one lane with temporary traffic lights installed on both approaches and illuminated cones and blocks on the bridge itself. The road speed limit on the bridge will be reduced to 10mph and will also be reduced on the approaches to avoid sudden braking. The first lane closed will be the one for traffic leaving Foulness and the traffic lights will be controlled by timer but residents should expect short delays in both directions.

Security Pass Update: All passes for people who no longer have sponsors have now been removed from Landwick Gate. All visitor passes requested in the last round of requests have been processed and left at Landwick Gate. If the visitor passes you're expecting are not at Landwick, please email shbsecurity@qinetiq.com

Tenants' Informaton Pack: DIO is in the process of updating the Tenants' Information Pack for re-issue later this year.

Group Property Report

Roads - no works planned at present.

Ditches - A & B ditch works are underway but will not affect tenants. We have a number of ditches that need re-profiling to aid water management. One may affect the tenant farmer and this will be discussed when the plan is agreed.

Tree Works and Ground Maintenance - hedges in Church-end have been cut back. Dead Elm trees have been removed from areas where they could cause a hazard.

Flood Defences - there are no planned works for this month.

Power Impacts - short outage at Nazewick Farm Cottages on the 15 January – residents informed.

Water Interruptions - none planned. Tenants are advised to check external pipes during freezing weather.

Major Projects - Radar Tower works start on 27 January – this may result in an increase in traffic.

Let Estate - tanks and base replacement has begun. Tenants of all affected properties will be notified.

Our thanks to Nicki Uden, Community Liaison Officer, and to Edwin Birch, Project Manager for this report.

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Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The Trustees of the
Foulness Conservation and
Archaeological Society

invite all members and
supporters of the Society
to the Annual General Meeting
which will be held on
Tuesday 10th March
at 7.30pm
in the Heritage Centre.

Help needed, please

We recently received a phone call from someone who is writing a novel set on here at least partly at the time of the '53 Flood.

You were very helpful to me when I was putting together

“Foulness – the years of change” and it would be good if you could be as helpful to this author. We are all aware that facts can be dredged from books but nothing beats talking to someone who has actually undergone the experience you’re writing about.

I was very good and didn’t pass on phone numbers, though a good collection of your names sprang to my mind, those of you who were living here at this time. If you can spare a few minutes and ring Paddy Magrane on 07745 886123 or email him on paddymagrane@gmail.com he’d be very grateful. You never know, your name might appear in print!

Denise

**And these will be paying for
our pensions**

*Quiz programme questions and
answers to make you feel superior*

The trading town of Timbuktu is located on what continent?

Ireland

Which world leader did the CIA make over 600 attempts at assassinating, including one with an exploding cigar?

*It must be an American. I’ll say
Bill Clinton*

Shakespeare is often referred to as The Bard of ... what?

Er .. Yorkshire

Name anyone from the Forbes 100 Most Powerful People in the World.

Oh, that’s an easy one.

Simon Cowell.

Which brothers made the first powered flight?

The Everly Brothers.

Asteroid 4328 Audrey is named after which Hollywood actress?

Kim Basinger

Which Prime Minister did Geri Halliwell call the first Spice Girl?

John Major

What season of the year features a silent N?

Spring

Which biblical character was crucified at Calgary?

Joan of Arc

**Have things changed in 25
years?**

**Snippets from our magazine
of 25 years ago**

The January quiz evening had raised £126.38 for The Children’s Society. The carol singing in December had been in aid of the same good cause and that had raised £110.

We learned of the publication of “Islands of Essex”, a book by Ian

Yearsley, which was available in the local library certainly at that time. A whole chapter was devoted to Foulness, and another chapter to the surrounding islands in 'the Essex archipelago'.

The magazine included a copy of an article that was published in the Assessment Services staff magazine on the topic of wildlife in ETC. No doubt the wildlife is pretty much similar to that of the rest of the island – there is a very thorough booklet on the subject in the Heritage Centre – Foulness Flora and Fauna.

Margaret Tillbrook thanked those who had helped with the Coffee Morning; £350 had been raised, to be shared between the church and Guideacres Appeal Fund.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

You will have seen elsewhere in the newsletter the notice of our Annual General Meeting, a meeting that is legally required. Do come and join us; there's nothing madly formal about it and you can always refuse to make eye contact so you don't get landed with a job!

Before we know it, we shall be reopening for the 2020 season, and trying to educate people who have odd ideas about this place. We even had someone on the phone just after Christmas, thinking that the Centre would be open and that they could have a guided walk of the Broomway – hadn't even thought about tide times.

To help us cope with the season's visitors, we would be happy to receive any offers of help at the forthcoming AGM; you don't have to be completely versed in the knowledge of the island – just be willing to talk to people. You'll be very welcome: we don't bite.

Foulness Tide Times

February 2020

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 1	04.17	5.1	16.46	4.9
Sun 2	04.58	4.9	17.33	4.7
Sat 8	11.24	5.6	23.56	5.6
Sun 9	****		12.13	5.9
Sat 15	04.18	5.7	16.51	5.4
Sun 16	05.07	5.4	17.46	5.1
Sat 22	11.45	5.5	****	
Sun 23	00.05	5.4	12.23	5.6
Sat 29	03.13	5.4	15.32	5.2

Have you tried ...

The Roslin
Thorpe Esplanade
SS1 4BG
☎01702 586375

Interestingly, we recently received two reviews of a meal at the above hotel/restaurant almost within days of each other. We offer them both as they give you food for thought with their contrasting opinions.

The first

We recently went to the Roslin for dinner. Although we'd been before for afternoon tea it was the first evening meal that we had had there. When I booked the table, the lack of available mid-evening times was a warning that they would be busy. Indeed, when we arrived in the early part of the evening the restaurant was already nearly full but we were given a table with a good view out to the river. Throughout the evening the service was just right, they had enough staff on to cope.

To begin with I had the "Smoked Haddock Scotch Egg" which was wonderful; the unset yolk mixed deliciously with the surrounding haddock, potato and crispy crumb. My partner had the "Spiced Baby Squid" and commented that although

it was very nice it didn't need any more spice!

For mains I had the rib-eye steak which was perfectly cooked. My partner had the "Thai Fish Curry" which she again described as very nice. Both portions were a good size.

Dessert was a mild disappointment. My cheesecake with vanilla ice cream was fine but my partner's plum crumble was surprisingly dry with little liquid to offset the crumble.

However, that was a minor quibble to what was otherwise an excellent meal. Pricewise the Roslin isn't cheap but I think still worth it for a top-end dinner out.

And this one

I recently had occasion to spend an evening at a fundraising evening at the Roslin Beach Hotel with four family members. Whilst the tickets were not overly expensive, we all thought the meals provided lacked both flavour and substance and the service was exceedingly slow for a midweek evening.

We had been asked to provide the organiser with our choice of two starters and two mains, one of which was a vegetarian option, weeks in advance. I don't think

any of us could remember just what we had chosen. The starters were not placed on tables for at least 30 minutes after service was advertised to begin; starvation was allayed by the arrival of the butter and a single small roll ten minutes beforehand.

Another half an hour to three quarters of an hour later and the mains arrived, a small supreme of chicken placed on a large tablespoon of mashed potato which was in turn on the top of some extremely crisp mange tout. What was described as a jus was poured over the top whether you wanted it or not. The vegetarian option which was served to one member of the party was a bowl of potato gnocchi swimming in a tomato sauce sprinkled with basil which was seriously disappointing.

Two hours after we had begun we received what became the highlight of the meal: we all had a small meringue nest with Chantilly cream and an autumn fruit compote.

After coffee and a bit of a jig on their exceedingly small dance floor we returned home. Had it not been so late the top-up takeaway mentioned by one of the party would certainly have been purchased.

We will probably do it all again next year. With the aid of some generous raffle prizes from local businesses, hard work from our organiser and much support from the paying guests a substantive amount was raised for a very worthy cause.

And finally Started your Christmas shopping yet for next December? The following may give you food for thought.

A couple were out Christmas shopping. The shopping centre was packed and as the wife walked round she realised that her husband was nowhere to be seen. They had a lot to do and she became so worried that she called him to ask where he was.

In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the jewellers we went into a few years ago, where you fell in love with that diamond ring? We couldn't afford it and I told you that I'd get it for you one day?"

His wife started to cry and said, "Yes I do remember that shop."

He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."

Items for publication, (an advert, an opinion, 'free to a good home') are always welcomed. For inclusion in the next newsletter, items should be with Denise at Hall Farm by the 18th of the preceding month.

Weather report 2019

Rainfall 2019

	50 Courtsend	Hall Farm	Churchend West
January	13.0mm	21.96mm 0.88inches	15.0mm
February	24.5mm	35.10mm 1.40	27.0mm
March	44.0mm	51.60mm 2.06	37.5mm
April	5.5mm	7.90mm 0.31	05.0mm
May	37.0mm	41.20mm 1.65	33.0mm
June	76.0mm	74.00mm 2.96	58.0mm
July	41.0mm	40.45mm 1.60	44.0mm
August	17.0mm	29.50mm 1.18	28.0mm
September	38.5mm	42.85mm 1.71	22.0mm
October	56.0mm	70.30mm 2.81	78.0mm
November	48.0mm	53.80mm 2.50	33.5mm
December	94.5mm	89.85mm 3.60	103.5mm
Total	495.0mm	558.51mm 22.34inches	484.0mm

Our thanks go to the readers of the rain gauges. We are sorry that there are not more weather recorders to make a comparison. We see that yet another year shows less rain in Courtsend, as we said last year clearly a more desirable place to live. With only one month showing less than an inch of rain, it's no wonder we have the impression that last year was wet, and yet the total for the year is not high.

The hottest day was July 24th when the temperature reached 35.6°C.
The coldest day was January 30th with a minimum of -5°C.
The wettest day was December 19th with 20mm of rain.
There were 215 days without rain during the past year.

Was anyone given a rain gauge for Christmas so that we can extend our range of reports next year?