

**A Happy New Year
To All Our Readers!**

May we repeat the good wishes in the box above – a very happy and healthy New Year to one and all. It seems hardly any time since we had to learn to write '2019' and now we've got to remember it's 2020. Must be a sign of getting older. We hope that by the time this is printed the weather will still be kind enough for deliveries to be made without too much trauma, despite what the forecasters always threaten to throw at us.

While on the subject of deliveries, we owe a very public THANK YOU to all those who regularly deliver this newsletter and other items to your homes. The least you can do in return is read it! (And perhaps occasionally have a bit to say, an opinion, an ad to go in, a 'free to a good home' don't worry about wording – that's what editors are for.)

In Memoriam

*Ann Hardstaff, Stella Harrod, Joan Hume,
Andrew Lilley, Joe Lilley, Susannah Self*

Gone but not forgotten

A prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me a few friends who understand me and remain my friends; work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer; a mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed; an understanding heart; a sense of humour; time for quiet, silent meditation; a feeling of the presence of God; the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to recognise them when they come.

Amen

December magazine

We are grateful to those who had Christmas Greetings printed last month and offered the magazine a donation in lieu of the cost of cards and stamps. If you've been meaning to drop a donation in the door of 23 Churchend it's still not too late.

Parish Council

Due to the issue regarding the recording of meetings, the Parish Council continues to hold two separate meetings.

We are 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 7.15 pm by a Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

There are no early starts or operational impacts to report.

Power Supply Interruptions:
February - Lodge Farm will be switched to generator supply for approximately 2 weeks whilst the

substation switchgear is upgraded. A generator will be serviced by the supplier.

15 January - Nasewick Cottages. The power will be interrupted for network maintenance for up to 2 hours – confirmation and timing on the day.

Individual notices have/will be issued for these interruptions.

Security Pass Update: We've started replacing, renewing and creating new visitor passes based on the information we have from the last round of letters. So far, 35 visitor passes have been sent to Landwick, which cover 13 of the households that have sponsored visitors. We've also removed quite a number of passes for people who no longer had a sponsor.

We will continue to produce more passes this week and next, with the aim of having all the sponsored passes (for which we have all the information, including photos) updated and at Landwick, before the end of the year.

QinetiQ in Farnborough is conducting Basic Checks for new residents (this includes a DBS

certificate of “no current wrongdoing”). We understand that there is still some debate within MOD as to whether or not this is adequate.

Havengore Bridge Works: Some minor works have already begun on electrics but a major programme of works to overhaul and upgrade the bridge is scheduled to begin in early February and be completed by the end of March. Road traffic will be restricted to one lane during the works with traffic management in force. If any residents or farmers are expecting any over-sized loads during this period they should inform us immediately.

Helpdesk Option: To report property maintenance issues to the Helpdesk, please call 01252 392020 and select Option 3 – Facilities Management.

Christmas Shutdown: The Range will close for Christmas on Tuesday 24 December and re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020.

Roads: No road works are currently planned but the Courtsend Road is being investigated.

Power Impacts: High Voltage maintenance January ETC/ Foulness (Nasewick Cottages) 15 Jan 2020.

High Voltage project (White City, Lodge Farm, A5) power interruptions from 6 Jan TBC. Works to 29 Churchend will require a power isolation that will affect Churchend Village – date TBC.

Water Impacts: Tenants need be mindful of what they flush down the toilet as we are experiencing increasing reports of blockages caused by paper towels or wet wipes etc.

Major Projects Impacts: Refurbishment of 26 & 30 Churchend will be starting on 6 January and last eight weeks.

Let Estate: 22 Oil tanks and their bases are going to be replaced. All tenants will be written to individually about this work.

Our thanks to Nicki Uden and Edwin Birch for these reports.

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 11th December and was attended by Councillors Elaine Pitts (Chair), Fran Giles and Adam Holyland. Apologies were received from Councillor Gary Bickford.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November were approved.

County Councillor Mike Steptoe gave a brief report on matters of interest to the Parish.

Council approved the payment requests for November/December and noted the receipts for the same period.

Council approved the budget for 2010/21. It was noted that Rochford District Council would no longer be supporting the Parish with the Council Tax Support Grant and, to receive the same income as last year the Council would need to increase the precept by 2.53%. The Clerk recommended that, to meet the needs of inflation, the precept should be increased by a further 3% and Council agreed to request a 5.53% increase over the previous year.

All documents presented to Council can be found on our website.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

The Parish Council also held an Extraordinary Meeting on 18th December 2019, the purpose of which was to discuss the planning

application received by Rochford District Council in respect of the Foulness Island Church. The Clerk was instructed to write to Rochford District Council regarding various issues in respect of this application and to request that it be called in to the Development Committee. It was agreed that Councillors Pitts and Giles would attend the Development Committee meeting as representatives of the Council.

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

We wish all parishioners a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

John Watson
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Annual Reports

If you have any information that could make the basis of an annual report in any subject dear to your heart (fishing, weather, gardening?) it would be welcomed at

Hall Farm for inclusion in the February newsletter. We know that fishing's not easily available for various reasons but a weather report or notes on something of interest in the garden would be especially welcome.

Foulness Newsletter

As we come to the end of another year of the newsletter standing on its own feet, being funded solely by your voluntary donations, we thank all of you who have supported us and shown your appreciation of our efforts by making a donation, of whatever size, or whatever sort (monetary or tangible assets) towards running costs.

An audited balance sheet will be available from Denise later in the New Year if you would like to see the full financial details.

May we remind you that if ever you want anything inserted for publication the space will be made available, so long as you get it to Denise at Hall Farm by the monthly deadline – see back page of the previous newsletter each time. Don't forget the 'free to a good home' advert if you have something you no longer need

that others might well make use of.

May we also remind you that the newsletter is delivered to all houses (and further afield) free of charge but all donations are much appreciated, so that this community service may keep going.

The Editor is particularly grateful to the kind person who supplied her with a 2020 Tide Table.

Foulness Tide Times

January 2020

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 4	05.51	4.7	18.35	4.6
Sun 5	06.57	4.6	19.40	4.7
Sat 11	00.10	5.6	12.26	5.8
Sun 12	00.55	5.7	13.12	6.0
Sat 18	05.35	5.3	18.17	5.2
Sun 19	06.42	5.2	19.26	5.1
Sat 25	03.17	5.5	12.34	5.7
Sun 26	00.54	5.6	13.13	5.7

What happened in 2019? (Answers on the back page)

1 Of which former British colony, in which there have been many street protests, is Carrie Lam the Chief Executive?

- 2 The deaths of Jonathan Miller, Clive James and which chef were announced on the same day?
- 3 Which Royal visited New Zealand most recently?
- 4 Which film was banned from and then reinstated in cinemas because of violence in the streets outside?
- 5 Which team won the FA Cup in May?
- 6 39 immigrants died in a trailer found in Essex; what nationality were they?
- 7 In which European country do the 'yellow vest' protests continue?
- 8 Who won the World Snooker Championship this year?
- 9 What is the first name of the 16-year-old climate protester from Sweden?
- 10 In January which country landed a space ship on the far side of the moon for the first time?
- 11 Which high street chain of bakers launched a meat-free sausage roll?
- 12 Who is the latest manager to be appointed to Southend United?
- 13 Who spent seven years taking refuge at the Ecuador Embassy?

- 14 The UK came last in Eurovision. How many times have we won?
- 15 What is the name of the son of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex?
- 16 When Teresa May resigned, who was Boris Johnson's final rival in the bid for the Conservative party leadership?
- 17 Operation Matterhorn brought stranded tourists home after the collapse of which travel company?
- 18 What is the name of the island in New Zealand where there has recently been a volcanic eruption?
- 19 Recently released as a film, which successful stage musical has been panned by the critics?
- 20 Who was voted Sports Personality of the Year?

Have things changed in 25 years?

Snippets from our magazine of 1995

The Amenities Club held a 50/50 Auction, charging 20p for tickets, which included tea and biscuits.

Margaret Wolstencroft continued to give us notes from the Council meetings. Queries had been raised concerning the use of a skip and a letter from the then

Land Agent in 1982 had stated that in order to help keep the island tidy a skip would be provided for the dumping of rubbish by residents only. A lighter note was introduced later into the meeting when we heard of a lady who had told the police that she wanted to visit the churchyard. She was asked the routine question: "Are you expected?" Her reply was "Not yet, I hope."

It was about this time that the Red Deer stag which had been roaming the island for some while had been found dead, cause unknown.

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

We are sprucing up and changing some of our displays ready for the coming season, which will be upon us before we can blink. We shall open again on the first Sunday in April – more details nearer the time – but if you want a quick word with Bob, to ask him something or just to have a chat, he's often in the Heritage Centre on a Friday.

May we remind you of our earlier request for photos and/or information: if you had someone in the family who lived on here

during the war, we'd be pleased to learn of it so that we can give them due credit in our planned display for this coming year.

Have you tried

Bella Italia
London Road
Southend-on-sea
SS1 1TJ
☎ 01702 341353

Having been to the Odeon with my daughter to see "Judy" (which was very good), with the showing finishing at 5pm we met my husband and visited Bella Italia.

Everyone was very friendly and we were shown to a table almost immediately. We decided to have a Diet Coke (daughter), American (husband) and English Breakfast Tea (me).

This kept us going while we looked at the menu. We chose cannelloni, spaghetti Bolognese and a pasta Marco Polo. The latter has duck, spring onions and mushrooms in a plum sauce, presumably reflecting Marco Polo's travels in the Orient. The spaghetti Bolognese is offered also as a vegan version but presumably it is no longer Bolognese, as the beef would have to be removed from the ragu.

We all enjoyed our choices. My husband is a great fan of pasta and has decided that he will choose the cannelloni on our next visit – I'd pronounced it excellent.

This place is well worth a visit, as the whole bill came to a more than bearable £33.35. A tip is not included in that total and they add a further 10% to tables of 8 or more.

Answers to the Quiz:

- 1 Hong Kong
- 2 Gary Rhodes
- 3 Prince Charles
- 4 *Blue Story*
- 5 Manchester City
- 6 Vietnamese
- 7 France
- 8 Judd Trump
- 9 Greta
- 10 China
- 11 Greggs
- 12 Sol Campbell
- 13 Julian Assange
- 14 Five times
- 15 Archie
- 16 Jeremy Hunt
- 17 Thomas Cook
- 18 White Island
- 19 Ben Stokes
- 20 *Cats*

And finally A man knocked at the door of a farmhouse and a young boy nearing his teens answered.

“Are your mum or dad at home?”, asked the man.

“No, they're out shopping,” replied the boy.

“How about your brother Howard – is he here?” the man asked. The boy replied, “No, he went with Mum and Dad.”

The man shuffled nervously. The boy asked if he could take a message, and the man said, “I really wanted to talk to your dad about Howard getting my daughter pregnant.”

The boy thought for a moment and said, “You'll need to talk to my dad about that then. I know he charges £500 for the bull and £100 for the pig but I don't know how much he'd charge for Howard.”

Items for publication (an advert, an opinion, news, 'free to a good home', are always welcomed. For inclusion in the February newsletter, these should be with Denise at Hall Farm by 18th January.