

Foulness Island

March 2020

March is with us at last, after what seems an interminably long, wet and drab winter. Thankfully we can look forward to lengthening days and, hopefully, drying winds bringing relief to a saturated land. Here and there the beginnings of new life spring forth, its colour a joy to the eye and the soul, raising us from the tomb of winter. Even a simple thing like a daffodil brings a smile to the face. The coming of Spring, creation's season of resurrection, calls us to join in celebrating this new life. Gardens, part of the tapestry of creation, will again become a place of re-creation and recreation to the gardener keen to exercise renewed energy and skills.

We are now in the period of Lent. It's not just the occasion for eating pancakes. Springtime of the Christian year, the Lenten season provides us with an opportunity to return again to our spiritual roots, exploring them anew in readiness for the coming Feast of Easter, the season of resurrection to a new life and a new beginning. With the pace of our life today and its demands, Lent is a time when we can pause and reflect upon our inner life and journey, to ponder again the true significance of Easter and what that means to you personally.

--ooOoo--

In Memoriam

In March we remember

Dennis Barrett

Betty Childs

Joan Clark

Lily Dean

Stephen Hume

Denis Lilley

Grace Nicholls

Jim Pedrick

Olive Willsmer

Margaret Wolstencroft

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness Parish Council

Due to the previous issue regarding the recording of meetings, the Parish Council continue 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 the Parish Council meeting.

QinetiQ Report

Foulness Residents' Report –

Early Starts: on 18 February at DAT, 08:30 and on 3-5 March at DAT, 08:30.

Potential Road Closure: A trial scheduled for Tuesday 17 March may result in a road closure. Closures are usually between Taylors Hut and Jerrywood and not more than 20 minutes, once a day. Further details to follow.

Havengore Bridge Works: The refurbishment programme commenced on Monday 10 February. The roadway on the bridge is now restricted to one lane with temporary traffic lights installed on both approaches and lane control. The road speed on approach to, and on the bridge is 10mph for the duration of the works. As the programme progresses, there will be days when the roadway is affected whilst certain activities are conducted e.g. test lifts, large plant movements etc. We will endeavour to give prior notification of such events but this may not always be possible. The works are due to be completed by early April.

Saturday 22 February - Churchend Towers Demolition:
The two target towers at the end of Churchend Battery Fairway are going to be demolished. The work has been scheduled for Saturday 22 February. This will mean that the Red Flags will be flying and that PROW routes in Land Area 4 will be closed during the day on the Saturday and possibly on the Sunday. Please observe this closure.

Red Phone Boxes: BT has commissioned a company to conduct a survey on the two red telephone boxes in Churchend and Courtend with a view to removing them. They have been informed that Churchend is a conservation area and that they should check with Rochford DC. They have said that the boxes will be available for adoption if the parish wants to retain them. DIO has also been informed.

DIO would like to remind residents: that they are only permitted access to their properties and public right of way routes. They are not permitted to access any other areas of the Range. The only exception is where someone has

gained written permission from the appropriate tenant to be on farm land.

Group Property Report

Ditches: ETC ditch works are now complete. We're leaving the long run (ETC to Nazewick Farm) until the fields are out of season to avoid disruption to farming.

Power: there are likely to be interruptions to the residential power supply whilst refurbishment and upgrade works are conducted at various properties in Churchend.

Let Estate: Tanks and base replacement work continues. Refurbishment of 26 & 30 Churchend continues.

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

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 12th February and was attended by Parish Councillors Elaine Pitts (Chair), Gary Bickford (Vice Chair), Fran Giles and Adam Holyland. Apologies were

received from County Councillor Mike Steptoe and District Councillor Daniel Efde.

Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th December 2019 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 18th December 2019.

Council unanimously approved a request from the Clerk that he register for an online training course provided by EALC in respect of Data Protection at a cost of £14.00 plus VAT.

Council also unanimously approved the Payment Requests for December 2019 to February 2020, the Receipts for the same period, the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2019 and the Accounts for the nine months to 31st December 2019.

Council further approved the updated Data Protection documents relating to their Data Protection Policy.

It was noted that there was nothing to report in respect of Rochford District Council Planning 19/00950/FUL and

19/00951/LBC relating to St Mary the Virgin Church.

No meetings had been attended by the Clerk or Members of Council since the last Council meeting.

The Clerk had nothing to report that had not been dealt with in the Agenda.

Parishioners addressed the meeting on the issue of the reduction of the MOD firefighting team on the Island and on the continuing subject of the reissue of passes.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Vacancy for a Councillor

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk for further details.

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Parish Clerk
Foulness Island Parish Council
86 Southchurch Boulevard
Southend on Sea
Essex, SS2 4UZ

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e-mail:

foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website:

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Foulness Tide Times

March 2020

	AM	height	PM	height
Sun 1	03.43	5.3	16.46	5.0
Sat 7	10.10	5.3	22.47	5.3
Sun 8	11.07	5.6	23.38	5.6
Sat 14	03.11	6.1	15.38	5.7
Sun 15	03.53	5.8	16.22	5.0
Sat 21	10.42	5.3	23.04	5.2
Sun 22	11.26	5.5	23.42	5.4
Sat 28	02.17	5.6	14.32	5.4
Sun 29	03.46	5.5	16.01	5.3

Allowance made for British Summer Time

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

With the new season of Open Days coming up before we know it, we are especially keen to welcome new volunteers who feel they may be able to help in any way at all. Come along and help us chat to our visitors. You don't have to be an expert on Foulness, just someone who is

willing to get involved in Foulness life.

If you would like to learn more about what may be involved, you will be more than welcome to chat to us at/after the forthcoming AGM – see notice elsewhere in the newsletter.

And these will be paying for our pensions

Quiz programme questions and answers to make you feel superior

Which London landmark houses Big Ben?

Tower Bridge

Which saint is revered by Christians as the forerunner of Jesus Christ?

St Nicholas

During the Second World War, which Briton did Adolf Hitler reportedly call “the most dangerous woman in Britain”?

Margaret Thatcher

June and which other month are spelled in English with four letters?

April

A person who has a good memory is said to have the memory of what animal?

A fish

In which film did Charlton Heston play Moses?

Lawrence of Arabia

**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 17th March
at 7.30pm
in the Heritage Centre.

Please note date change

**Have things changed in 25
years?**

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

The Amenities Club held a
successful Cheese and Wine
evening; tickets were priced at

£2 for members and £2.50 for
non-members.

We were able to read a
wonderful account of the
wildlife in the Rectory garden,
the flora and fauna. During the
previous six years 81 different
bird species had been noted in
the garden, including Hobby,

Golden Oriole and Kingfisher,
and there had been many small
animals seen and noted. One
hopes that the wildlife is as
prolific these days. The number
makes your Editor's "32
different species from the
kitchen window" somewhat
small beer.

Have you tried ... ?

Simply Seafood
1 The Cockle Shed
Leigh-on-sea
SS9 2ER
☎ 01702 716645

We hadn't been to this place
recently as they seemed to have
decided that they were so
popular they could fit in two
sittings in a session and the
diners' start time was dictated

by the restaurant, with them also telling you what time you had to be out by. Not something that pleased me so that's why we hadn't been for a while.

But then we heard that the place had changed hands and a perusal of their website said nothing about dictating the time of your meal. So the restaurant was in the back of my mind at a time we were talking about a 30th (Pearl) wedding anniversary among friends. I laughed and said, "I don't want a pearl necklace, thank you, darling". Quick as the proverbial flash one of those present came back with, "Then go out to dinner and have oysters". Bingo!

Simply Seafood is situated right on the shore at Leigh and, although they talk of their lovely estuary views, I have to say that the last time I was there the view was of an enormous JCB and not a lot else.

Still, this time it was getting to the back end of autumn so the view was of darkness alleviated by the occasional railway signal light, and the ever-changing

traffic lights from the road works we had recently negotiated to get there, and the lights of Kent for the person sitting opposite me.

Far from being madly popular as a restaurant, this particular evening we were the first diners, and not many more arrived while we were there. Still, the welcome was warm and while we perused the drinks menu we were able to think also about the 'special' menu and the food to come.

The starters range from bread and olives at £5.95, through prawn and crayfish cocktail at £8.95 to mussels in two different ways at £11.95. There's also grilled halloumi for those who don't feel 'fishy'. So a dozen oysters at £18.95, once you decide to share them, is not going to break the bank, though of course there are cheaper places to eat.

There was no quibble when I spoke of sharing the oysters, and they came beautifully presented on a display stand with plenty of samphire underneath (where do

they get it at this time of year?), and even if the samphire was meant to be a mere platter decoration it tasted good.

A plus point for this restaurant, and something you rarely see: they have the guts to put a price on Dover Sole, rather than coyly saying 'market price' and leaving you to gasp when you learn the price perhaps too late. I went for it, with new potatoes. I was asked if I wanted it on or off the bone – well, this person is quite capable of getting her own fish off the bone thank you.

At home I might have been looking for the mushroom ketchup but there was nothing with the dish other than melted butter. I was offered a choice of side dishes (£3.95) but to my simple mind the only veg for fish is peas and they weren't on the menu.

My partner chose from the specials board and had monkfish wrapped in Parma ham with a port jus and new potatoes, and a dish of seasonal vegetables, most of which were sadly wasted as they were not needed.

The monkfish was actually more expensive than the Dover sole. Other fish available were grilled skate (£15.95) or wild sea bass at £23.95. Lobster and halibut were discreetly advertised at market price – see above. There were also steaks and lamb dishes available but why go to a seafood restaurant and eat meat?

My partner found a very acceptable beer on the drinks menu, and there was wine available by the glass as well, not as pricey as in some places we've recently seen.

We always make a point of leaving room for dessert even if my partner manages only a selection of ice cream. I was pleased with my choice of passionfruit cheesecake, an individual portion rather than a slice cut from a larger one.

We opted not to have coffee and set off back home via the road works. We'd go to Simply Seafood again, but considering the distance we'd not make a habit of going but it's a jolly fine place for a special occasion.