

Foulness Island

March 2017

March, so says the old country saying, ‘comes in like a lion and departs like a lamb’ – or vice versa if the weather fits the reverse of this saying. A month of change, we look back to Winter and forward to Spring. With the clocks going forward an hour at the end of the month, bringing lighter evenings, we can look with renewed interest at our gardens again, pottering round after tea, instead of during some snatched minute in the daytime. A therapeutic experience, gardening puts us in touch with the forces of nature of which we are a part. Be still a while and listen to the bird song celebrating a new day or trying to attract a mate.

God’s creation is stirring, revealing to our ears, eyes, heart and mind new life. Even the most blasé of us is likely to potter around looking to see how far the daffodils have progressed, and if you are such a Philistine as to have none in the garden – oh dear. The death of Winter succumbs to the resurrection of Spring.

The Springtime of the Christian year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. It can be for all of us a season of blessing and growth. It’s a season of opportunity to prepare for the greatest of the Christian festivals, Easter. A time to return to our Christian roots, Lent, like gardening, can be an immensely rewarding and enriching experience. A time to consider our lives and see if there is any way we can improve.

Perhaps you might find time to read again the parable of the Sower – Mark’s Gospel, chapter 4.

In Memoriam

In March we remember

Dennis Barrett

Betty Childs

Joan Clark

Lily Dean

Stephen Hume

Denis Lilley

Grace Nichols

Jim Pedrick

Olive Willsmer

Margaret Wolstencroft

Gone but not forgotten

Foulness Parish Council

Council Matters

County Councillor Colin Seagers gave a brief report about the County Council Precept for 2017/2018 where it appeared that County would be seeking a 3% increase compared to 2016/2017. He mentioned that there were concerns about social care at home.

Council approved the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December

2016, the Accounts for the nine months to 31st December 2016 and the payment requests for the month.

Geoff Evans from QinetiQ reported that the sea wall on the Island would not be part of the Coastal Pathway.

It was noted that there was still no news about the procedure to make compensation claims regarding the major power failure on the Island.

Finally, we are just finishing the Parish Council website which should be live from 1st March 2017. The link is www.foulnessislandpc.org.uk

QinetiQ Report

Early Starts

28th February and 1st March commencing at 08:00 am at DAT.

Power Interruptions

Maintenance work during April will affect residential areas. Dates to be advised.

Water Interruptions

No water interruptions are expected.

Road Repairs

There will be road repairs from now to the end of March on the spine road at Havengore Bridge, outside Churchend Battery, on the bend to ETC (outside the Church), between Churchend and New Wick and at Courtend. A full survey is under way to identify work that needs to be done in 2017/18.

Sea Wall

The current phase of work on the Sea Wall is winding down and will be finished by 28th February. No work is envisaged in 2017/18.

Refurbishment

A project to refurbish a building at ETC has begun. Residents may notice an increase in traffic through Churchend over the next 12 weeks in connection with this work.

Street Lights

Work should have been completed on all malfunctioning street lights.

SHB Helpdesk

There is a new SHB Helpdesk number for reporting residential maintenance matters: 01702 383666. This number is routed to local QQ personnel but if unanswered, will divert to other QQ sites (e.g. Boscombe, Farnborough) where you can leave a message for a call back from QQ Shoeburyness.

John Watson
Parish Clerk
Foulness Island Parish Council
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Essex, SS2 4UZ

Tel: 07757 484225

Email:
foulnessparishcouncil@gmail.com

Thank you

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all my friends and neighbours for their kind offers of

help and support during and after my emergency stay in hospital.

Mary

Foulness Tide Times March 2017

	AM	height	PM	height
Sat 4	03.43	5.8	16.12	5.4
Sun 5	04.29	5.6	17.04	5.2
Sat 11	11.33	5.7	23.56	5.7
Sun 12	****		12.14	5.8
Sat 18	03.21	5.5	15.36	5.2
Sun 19	03.54	5.2	16.10	5.0
Sat 25	10.13	5.2	22.37	5.0
Sun 26	12.00	5.5	*****	

Adjusted for BST where needed

The curse of the commentator

“Referee Robert Madley looks at his whistle and blows his watch”

BBC Newcastle

“Forest Green have certainly got the wind between their tails”

Adam Virgo BT Sport

‘I think it was nerves that made me nervous’

Andy Murray

‘I went to church, religiously’

Denise Lewis

“Cyclist Jess Varnish .. was told by the previous performance coach to go away and have a baby, but she didn’t take this lying down.”

Jacquie Beltrao

Sky Sports News

“Concussion is definitely a big challenge. We have to address it head-on.”

Alistair Bruce-Ball

Radio 5 Live

“Zaha hit a hard, low shot into the roof of the net.”

Ian Ritchie

Radio 5 Live

Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society

The Trustees of the Foulness
Conservation and
Archaeological Society

invite all members
of the Society
to the Annual General Meeting

which will be held
on Tuesday 14th March
at 7.30pm
in the Heritage Centre.

Wakering Spring Flower Show Sunday April 2nd

This show is always a pleasure to visit and, as there's still a few

weeks to go yet, the spring flowers have a chance to get going to delight us all again this year. Even if you don't exhibit (and the classes are open to those living on Foulness – see Great Wakering Community Association Newsletter for where to obtain the Year Book and entry form) it's always worth having a look to see what our gardens might aspire to at this time of year.

If you don't feel you can manage the specialist spring flower classes there's always something as apparently relatively simple as a vase of spring flowers or shrubs or one of the domestic classes. Try entering 'best bloom' – you've only got to find one decent bloom in the garden, of any sort, to have an entry worth making.

There are classes for children, too, judged by age. Have a look in the GWCA Newsletter for more information. Schedules are

available now. You never know, your one nice bloom, sheltered from damaging winds blowing elsewhere, might very well win.

They lived on Foulness

Jack: Jack was a sheepdog (mostly Old English) and in 1940 he lived with the Lilley family at Tree Farm. As a dog he was very intelligent and knew exactly how to find and herd sheep. The one thing Jack did not like was explosions. To take him on a shoot was a waste of time as at the first shot he was a blur heading for home and his sanctuary under the living room sofa.

An anti-aircraft gun was established to the north of the road between Tree Farm and New Wick. And when it opened fire at an enemy aircraft Jack was a shivering wreck under the sofa.

In the fullness of time it was noted that Jack would be under the sofa 20 minutes before any enemy aircraft appeared. It was assumed he could hear the aircraft as they assembled in formations over Northern France ready to raid London. Jack seemed to be able to

tell the difference between a British aircraft flying from Rochford and enemy aircraft over France.

There was speculation about setting up a telephone line to Fighter Command to employ Jack's talent, but nothing came of it. However, his efforts did not go in vain as the Lilley family had the benefit of their own reliable aircraft warning device which hid under the sofa.

*As told by the late
(Muriel) Freda Arnold,
nee Lilley*

Have you tried ...

1935 Rooftop restaurant and bar at Southend Airport?

As a relative newbie to Southend, when looking for a nice place to take hubby out for his birthday dinner, I turned to trusty TripAdvisor for some advice. Ranked 43rd (out of 509 restaurants) and scoring 4 out of 5 from 344 reviews, 1935 seemed a reasonable 'safe option'.

I'm not generally a fan of 'hotel restaurants' – they often struggle to stand out from the crowd and

don't usually compete with independent outlets as they have to conform to 'brand standards' but this one promised to offer something different for the diner. It is the first roof top restaurant in Essex, named after the year the airport was built, 1935.

On arrival, I felt a little as if I had been transported back to London - the first thing that greeted us was the huge sign advising of parking fees.... a staggering £2.50 per 30 minutes. However, don't let this put you off – if you show your dinner receipt at reception as you leave, you are given a free pass to leave without charge.

Entering the hotel reception is very 'Holiday Inn' as you would expect, but on stepping out of the elevator on the 5th floor, we instantly found ourselves in an uber modern and contemporary bar area.

As we had our daughter with us, we decided to forgo the pre-dinner drinks and go straight through to the restaurant. I had pre-booked (advised for Friday and Saturday evenings) and had requested a highchair. Usually this sort of

request sees you seated as far away in the back of the restaurant as possible without appearing rude, but I was delighted to find that we were given what can only be described as the best table in the house. The highchair hadn't been pre-placed and a bit of reshuffling had to be undertaken but we were soon seated and given time to review the menu.

The restaurant literally overlooks the airport runway. There is also a good view of the railway and I'm sure in daylight there is a great view of Essex too. The range of people eating there included a few obvious hotel residents, family groups and a couple of celebration parties – the cringy 'happy birthday' music was played at least once during our meal but this must have been at the request of a guest so cannot be avoided.

The hotel was offering suggested wines by the glass with each dish on the menu. These choices were perhaps a little 'safe and predictable' but a good introduction for anyone wanting to try different wines with each menu item. There was also a satisfactory

wine list for those wishing to make their own choices, as we did.

Best described as classical British, there was a pleasing selection of choice ranging from crab tartlet (my choice) to game salad as starters – I think there were 10 starters to choose from in total ranging from £ 6 - £8 in price. There was also a really good children's menu which was clearly written with encouraging healthier options in mind – (our daughter had a selection of melon to start with along with a healthy part of my crab tart and her dad's calamari. She followed this with a chicken breast and garden peas and finished with a Rossi ice-cream – she is being well educated in all things culinary! – but I digress!)

Main courses were divided into 'homely classics' including Kiev or steak and ale pie, 'fish options' which were disappointingly anything but local (unless you have a healthy stock of red snapper in Southend) and 'from the Grill' including the obvious range of steaks, duck breast, venison etc etc. Prices ranged from around £12 – £25 per person (the fillet steak

was probably slightly more but memory fails me here).

I selected a lamb duo which was essentially roasted rump and braised shoulder of lamb served with dauphinoise potatoes and 'seasonal veg' although I'm not sure which season they were referring to as I'm pretty sure asparagus is generally only available from April to June in the UK – nevertheless it was all delicious and perfectly cooked. My husband opted for steak so there is not a great deal that can be said about that really – suffice to say, his plate was spotless within minutes.

Dessert is usually my least favourite course but I have to say, the hazelnut praline cheesecake was absolutely delicious and would certainly be highly recommended from me.

In summary, I have no hesitation in recommending this restaurant to anyone. The ambience is comfortable as opposed to formal. The service is prompt and attentive without being hurried or intrusive and the food is most enjoyable.

My final recommendation would be for the ladies – if you are hoping for the undivided attention of your man for the evening, then this is absolutely not the place to go as the attraction of planes and trains is too much competition for any of us.

And finally A woman arrives home and as she walks through the door she says to her husband, "Darling, the car won't start, but I know what the problem is."

He asks her what she thinks the problem is and she says that there is water in the carburettor.

He thinks for a moment and then says, "You know, I don't mean to be sexist, but you don't know the carburettor from the accelerator."

"No, there's definitely water in the carburettor", she insists.

He replies, "Well, I'll just have a look to make sure. Where is the car?"

"In the lake," she says.

(The above reminds me of a cartoon my late mother kept for ages and she wasn't a driver: it was of a woman coming home to husband, she's leaning against the door frame, hat wildly askew, hair everywhere, steering wheel somehow

around her neck and she remarks casually “We’ve just become pedestrians.” *Editor*

Items (articles, adverts, ‘free to a good home’, opinions) for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. For the April newsletter these should be with Denise at Old Hall Farm by 18th March.