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# *Foulness Island*

## *October 2019*

How quickly another Summer has slipped by. There was so much early rain that we thought we'd never get what we call a summer. Then the sun came out for days, weeks, on end, and we were basking in glorious days, even 'too hot'. But now the summer holidays are nothing but a distant memory, the combine harvesters are packed in the shed, oiled, greased and serviced, ready for next year. The fields are being prepared for next year's harvest. The birds are gathering in preparation for their migratory flights. Soon the avian winter visitors will begin to arrive. We tend to notice how many or how few berries there are in the hedgerows. A season of change, a season of ripening. How blessed we are to be able to experience these changing seasons and in particular what the poet called the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' even if there always pops into my mind a cartoon enjoyed many years ago, referring to 'season of mellow fruitiness'.

If we step back a while from the activity which fills our lives, creation can open our eyes and minds to so much more. We can take time to absorb the beauty of a single bloom, or brave the midges to take in the glory of a starry night. People who live in more urban areas just haven't a hope of seeing such glory – the light pollution is too great. As we ponder the beauty of a night sky we begin to think on the awe and the mystery, the wonders of creation.

It's that time of year when churches celebrate Harvest Festival. Yes, most of our food comes from the supermarket shelves and we rarely give a passing thought to how it gets there, just so long as the purse can cope when we get to the check-out. But, from whatever source, someone's labours got that food to the shelves for us and we should be grateful for their efforts. Even if you don't get to a Harvest Festival service, just pause for a moment and offer thanks that there is food on your table.

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### **In Memoriam**

*In October we remember*

*Ken Christie  
Eric Lilley  
Joyce Lilley  
Ada Ellen Rawlings  
Dinah Rawlings  
Norman (Sam) Self  
Charlie Thornton*

*Gone but not forgotten*

### **Foulness 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 the Parish Council meeting

### **QinetiQ Report**

*Early starts:* 12th September 08:30 at DAT.

*Potential Road Closures:* there is a potential road closure between Jerrywood and Taylor's Hut, scheduled for 1st October with a backup day of 2nd October. Short delay to traffic.

*Havengore Bridge* remains out of service for marine traffic. We are negotiating with local boatyards

to arrange one or two days when the bridge can be opened for an hour, so that they can bring their customers' boats through for post-season mooring. The weekend of 28th & 29th September has been proposed but not confirmed. We will let you know if this is confirmed.

*Havengore Bridge Roadworks:* on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th September there will be road repairs on Havengore Bridge. Traffic management will be in operation during the works and there will be no delays to traffic.

*Residents and sponsored visitors passes:* We received the letter from the Clerk of the Council on 23rd July and sent a full reply on 16th August (see later in this report).

*Bike Ride Feedback:* Does anyone have any feedback from last weekend's event? We will report back any observations and concerns to the organisers and DIO.

*Roads:* There will be some minor pothole repairs carried out on the Churchend - X5 stretch of road on Saturday 28th September. On Friday 20th September there is some line painting to be carried out by Landwick gate, in the afternoon. Again, there will be no delays caused to tenants as one side at a time will be done and will be

under an hour in duration for the whole of the works.

*Ditches:* A&B ditching works are in the process of being planned and areas and dates will be shared with tenant farmers in due course by direct communication.

*Tree Works or Ground Maintenance Impacts:* Work is being undertaken in Churchend during October to cut back some hedges in Churchend and clear the Pond area.

*Major Projects Impacts:* Let Estate works will be starting in November. All tenants affected will be written to accordingly.

*Statutory Maintenance:* Tenants are being written to as and when needed.

*Passes:* Work has commenced to issue new ten year passes for residents and five year passes for sponsored visitors.

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

### **Parish Council Report**

The Parish Council met on 11th September and was attended by Councillors Elaine Pitts (Chair), Gary Bickford (Vice Chair) and Fran Giles. The Agenda for the meeting included items that had been carried forward from the Agenda of the aborted July meeting.

We are pleased to report that Adam Holyland was co-opted as a member of the Council.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2019 were unanimously approved.

County and District Councillor Steptoe gave a brief report and we thank him for taking the time to attend our meeting.

Council approved the payment requests for July to September and noted the receipts for the same period. Council also approved the bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2019 and the accounts for the three months to 30th June 2019.

The Play Area report produced by PlaySafety Ltd was considered and approved.

The Risk Management report for 2019/2020 as prepared by the Clerk was approved.

The Shoburyness Integrated Rural Management Plan was considered and it was agreed that the Council would not take any action.

The draft Parish Burial Ground rules as prepared by the Clerk were approved with some amendments.

The e-mail from Rotary suggesting a joint project with the Parish Council was considered and it was agreed that, because of the unique situation vis-à-vis the



Parish Council and the MOD, any project would not be possible.

The Parish Council agreed to donate £75 to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

The Clerk reported that the Contractors for the maintenance of the Burial Ground had agreed to continue for a second year with no increase in cost.

The Clerk also reported on the tenders received for the maintenance of the burial area and the appointment of a Contractor was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

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

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### Sea Eagles

As part of a project that has been branded as 're-wilding', six white-tailed sea eagles, with a wing-span of 8 feet, were recently released on the Isle of Wight. In some places, concern has been expressed about this project and others like it, as people are worried about what the eagles might consider to be prey. One can understand the concern of

sheep farmers regarding small lambs, and no doubt owners of cats and small dogs aren't over the moon.

However, one thing to note: the eagles, carefully satellite-tagged, were released on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Five of them did not stray far from home, but one of the males set off on a tour of south-east England and at the beginning of September was noted as having reached Wakering Stairs. It briefly roosted, but then set off again on its travels. More information is available on line.

### Harvest Home

We are normally able to thank you for your co-operation during the period of harvest in our September magazine, but by the end of August, long after the September magazine deadline, harvest was still going on here. Between the blazing hot days of early and late summer you may remember there were days of rain. Despite the intermittent sunshine it took some while for the wheat to be combinable, when the grain merchants want things down to 15% moisture. It may look a lovely day to you, but it can be still too wet to use the combines.

Even as harvest finished, the dryers were still working – don't even *think* about the diesel bill – though matters are not so bad as in 1958 when the dryers were going every evening almost up till Christmas, though we admit they

could cope with only 1 ton an hour; thank goodness today's machines are greatly improved.

Now that the fields are cleared, on behalf of all who farm on Foulness may we thank you for having given way to tractors and trailers during this recent very busy period? If you've ever worked a 14-hour day, 7-day week, you'll know you need some consideration from others. Your courtesy, patience and good humour have helped us along the way. If you got stuck behind what seemed like a slow trailer, be consoled by the fact that fast food has to start somewhere, even if it starts slowly. *Belton Bros Ltd*

### **Have things changed in 20 years?**

#### **Snippets from our magazine**

News must have been in short supply – we were back to just one sheet of the newsletter.

Lt-Col Hastings was present at the Council meeting and he was able to hear in person the opinions of residents on the Bike Ride. The organisers offered a donation as a thank you and apology for the inconvenience caused; this was declined. The ride had apparently netted some £22,000. Many things have doubled in price in the ensuing 20 years; has the 'take' for the ride?

There was another successful Race Evening run by the

Amenities Club which raised over £200.

Author of *Portrait of Foulness*, Johnnie Quarrell displayed all the photos he had taken for his book. He was happy for those in the photos to have them in return for a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society; this raised £120.

### **Foulness Tide Times**

#### **October 2019**

	AM		PM	
Sat 5	05.14	5.2	17.39	5.3
Sun 6	06.05	4.8	18.43	4.9
Sat 12	00.09	5.5	12.22	5.5
Sun 13	00.43	5.6	12.55	5.6
Sat 19	03.49	5.4	16.08	5.5
Sun 20	04.24	5.2	16.50	5.4
Sat 26	11.25	5.6	***	
Sun 27	11.13	5.9	23.37	6.1

Allowance made for BST/GMT

### **Foulness Conservation and Archaeological Society**

The Heritage Centre will be open to the public for the last time this year on the first Sunday of October between 12 and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there with your visitors, and maybe having to 'shoo' you out at the end, as we had to last time we were open, so engrossed were the visitors.

It's been pleasing this year to see a number of repeat visitors, some of whom came with an organised



group and then returned with a friend, saying they hadn't had enough time to see everything on the first visit.

It's also been wonderful to make use this year for the first time of our extra space. If you've popped in you will have noticed our enlarged kitchen with a new serving hatch, and elsewhere a dedicated 'audio-visual room' and a room where people are able to consult and discuss family trees in greater space.

You will remember that we have on sale a number of items that might interest family and friends living further away, and if you are already thinking about Christmas presents (and shops elsewhere have been displaying such wares for many a week) the first Sunday of October may be a chance to solve one or two present ideas. Quite apart from our Foulness books, there are items that are less expensive and may well be of use to you. We look forward to being able to help you.

Our next 'committee and friends' meeting will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre.

### **September Bike Ride**

If you read the Council notes, you will have seen that QinetiQ have requested any comments or observations on this year's bike ride. Some concerns have been expressed. If you have any comment to make, positive or negative, please contact Nicki Uden: [nuden@qinetiq.com](mailto:nuden@qinetiq.com)

### **Have you read ...**

Sauces and Soups *by Tom Marto*  
Mint Cake Recipes *by Ken Dall*  
Meals on a Skewer

*by Donna Kebab*

Horse Racing in Yorkshire

*by Don Casster*

Senior Citizen Care

*by Jerry Attrick*

Thanks to Roy Eighteen for these

### **Have you tried ...**

Polash

84/86 West Road

Shoeburyness, SS3 9DS

☎ 01702 294721/293989

It's some while since we have been there but we noticed an advert in the Gt Wakering Community Newsletter which offered 10% off the food bill so thought it was time we gave it another try! This 10% was to celebrate their being in Shoeburyness for 40 years, so they must be doing something right; we have seen a number of eating places come and go from that area over the years.

They are open seven days a week, from 5pm till 11.30pm so there must be a time and a day to suit everyone. We popped on one late summer Wednesday evening at around 6.30 and found we were their first customers. We were made very welcome but not obsequiously so, so we didn't feel uncomfortable.

In fact, soon after I made the above note, a trio of customers from the sub-continent arrived for a meal, apparently regulars, so they must be happy with the cuisine there. There was also a slow but steady stream of take-away customers, so the kitchen wasn't entirely twiddling its thumbs.

Once we were seated, the first priority for the waiter was to supply us with drinks. Being the designated driver, I went for a J2O and was pleased to find some good lumps of ice in the glass, as the bottle of drink certainly hadn't come straight from the fridge, as it does in some restaurants. My partner being a beer drinker asked for 'a nice beer'; he got the ubiquitous Cobra which didn't impress but was marginally better than the alternative Kingfisher. No actual drinks list was brought to us; we were apparently supposed to divine what they had in stock.

The next priority was to encourage us to fill ourselves up on poppadums and dips, but we prefer not to do that. At last a menu came to the table and we were able to make a considered choice.

My partner will usually choose a more spicy dish than I like, and unadventurous me will often go

for a set meal or a biryani so I don't have to display my ignorance about what goes with what. This time I was quite surprised by the suggestion of a set meal from the other side of the table. There are a number of set meals available in the menu, varying in price according to the number they are planned to serve.

He was looking at the 'Kipling', coming in at just over £40, and we went for it. It is at that point that you can perhaps see the point of the dreaded poppadums, as we were left with what seemed like a fairly lengthy wait for our first course, while it was freshly cooked. The other side of the table compared it favourably with other establishments where you may be served more quickly but no doubt from a big vat of 'stuff' that has been bubbling away for day after day, and you get just a dollop from it, with your chosen meat added. He nearly managed to put me off!

When they came, the starters were a delight. They are merely called 'mixed tikka' on the menu, but were so delicately spiced that I'd have been happy eating more of them and perhaps less of the mains to come..The only down side, as with so many such places, is that in an attempt to keep the meat side of things warm, the hot plate 'cooks' the accompanying lettuce.



The main courses were tandoori king prawn masala and jeera chicken, along with mushroom bhaji, and a sensible-sized serving of pilau rice (I wish I could cook rice so each grain is so separate) and a garlic naan. I've read pretentious restaurant reviews where the term 'pillowy naan' has been used and have snorted derisively, but oh my goodness what came to our table was an utter joy. In ordinary circumstances I'd never consider filling myself with rice AND naan but I was so glad I made an exception.

With this set meal the third course is a choice between fruit salad or coffee, and either would have spoiled what had gone before.

The main menu is fairly wide-ranging, covering tandoori, bhuna, biryani, Balti ... you know them all. Each of these types of cooking has an explanation on the menu. There are fish dishes listed separately, vegetable sides, sundries and even a list of English dishes they are prepared to offer you.

We always comment that Indian restaurants never have a 'proper' dessert menu; they are always commercial frozen things, but Polash does note on its menu that they will prepare Indian desserts for you if they have notice, but perhaps after such a delicious

meal as we had no dessert is needed.

**And finally ...** A man had two of the best tickets for the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

Just as he sat down, another man came along and asked if anyone would be sitting in the empty seat next to him.

"No they won't," he replied; "the seat is free."

"Really? That's incredible," exclaimed the other man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this, for the greatest sporting event of the year, and then not even use it?"

The man sitting down explained "Well, the seat does belong to me. My wife was supposed to have been here with me but she's passed away. This is the first Cup Final she has missed since we were married."

"Gosh, I'm so sorry to hear that," the other man replied. "Heck, that's dreadful. I guess you couldn't find someone else, a close friend or a relative, or even a neighbour to take the seat then?"

The man shook his head. "I'm afraid not. They're all at the funeral."

*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 18<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*