



*One day we'll be able to get together again....*

## **Horningsea Herald**

**Issue #150 April 2021**

**For further information on Horningsea visit our village website at:**

**[www.horningsea.net](http://www.horningsea.net)**

**To contribute to the Herald, please contact the editor by the 25th of the month at:**

**[horningseanews@googlemail.com](mailto:horningseanews@googlemail.com)**

### ***Easter Services at St Peter's Church***

This Easter there will be two Riverside open air services - join at the church and walk down St John's Lane to the river. If you can drag yourselves out of bed early enough on Easter Day there will be a sunrise service. The sun rises at 6.21 so we will gather at 6.15 - bring your own breakfast or hot drink for after the service.

#### **Good Friday 2nd April**

- 14.00 - 15.00 Quiet Hour in the church
- 15.00 walk to the River bank for a short reflective service suitable for families.

#### **Easter Day Sunday 4th April**

- 06.15 Sunrise Service on the Riverbank
- 09.30 Holy Communion with music in the Church.
- 15:00 Zoom Songs of Praise

Can you let Jennie know if you are planning to come to any of these services - 864513 or [japov7@googlemail.com](mailto:japov7@googlemail.com)

There will also be a Zoom Songs of Praise at 15.00 on Easter Day - Jennie can give you the contact details.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/3783>

### ***The Plough and Fleece reopening***

*Mary and Jamie*

The Plough and Fleece will be reopening on Tuesday 18th May.

We're really excited about welcoming everyone back to some sort of normality

See our Facebook page for more details and perhaps to book a table...!

<https://www.facebook.com/PloughandFleecePub/>

## **Horningsea Planning**

### ***Save Honey Hill***

The Save Honey Hill group now has a website:

<https://www.savehoneyhill.org>

Save Honey Hill is a community group formed to reject the proposal to relocate the Cambridge sewage treatment works from Milton to Honey Hill, a beautiful unspoilt, quality green field and arable site just outside Horningsea and along Horningsea road.

## **Horningsea past and present**

### ***The sky above Horningsea: My life with the stars 4***

*John Wilson*

On the 21st of March the Sun reached zero declination, which means that it was directly over the equator. Over the next few months it will travel north reaching its maximum declination on Midsummer's day. The 21st of March is regarded as the spring equinox and the start of spring. You may have heard the BBC weather forecasters saying the first of March is the start of spring but this seems to be a fairly recent event and I am not sure why they want to confuse us all.

Several events are linked to the Equinox both in March and September. The moon and sun are either in opposition or alignment near these dates, which cause exceptionally high spring tides which can cause flooding. Actually the highest tides occur five high tides past the Full or new moon due to the drag effect.

If you have ever wondered how high the sea would be if allowed to flood up to Horningsea you only have to look at the datum board above Baits Bight lock and you will see the mark on the upper river would coincide with a neap tide at the sea lock at Denver sluice. A spring tide would raise it another three to four feet putting the water well up the Laney meadow hill or to the bottom of Church lane on Equinoxial tides. A sobering thought. Also we can get a north easterly storm which if coinciding with the high spring tides can exasperate the situation by causing storm surges which could add another ten feet to the height of tide. There is no evidence that the Equinox causes storms, often referred to as Equinoxial storms mentioned in books and films.

However on the brighter side we can look forward to warmer weather and longer daylight which will help to lift our moods, especially in these troubled times.

I was looking at Mars the other evening, although the red planet is not at its closest it is still a notable red colour.

I find it hard to believe that we now regularly visit the planet with space craft. Some of you may remember radio programs like "journey into space", which always ended in cliffhangers, made in the days before the first rockets into space. Now we have rovers wandering around the planet having been lowered down by rocket sky cranes. It really must be crowded there. I wonder if the engineers who made the rover were not tempted to stencil a parking ticket on the side to be caught by the camera and sent back as the first images from the rover, but then that would just be my sense of humour.

## ***Letter from Lockdown***

*Richard Pleasants*

It's just possible that some of us may be able to fly somewhere this summer. For those with big ideas about themselves, this will mean something called 'Club Class' which I've never experienced. For people like me, who are keen to spend less on the flight than I spend to park the car while I'm away, it means Ryanair.

People are awfully rude about Ryanair. I know that they would actually charge you extra to breathe if they could only find a way to monitor it. In fact I have occasionally wondered when listening to the recorded safety instructions with the 'Riverdance' accent and the appalling grammar, whether when the oxygen masks automatically drop from the ceiling, if they are fitted with meters. Nonetheless, a tenner for a return flight to Greece, which is what was being offered in October, has got to be good value as long as you don't actually die in the process. It's about a third of the cost of a taxi to Cambridge and back - and the pilot doesn't expect a tip.

Admittedly, being charged extra to take luggage or to sit next to your partner does feel a bit cheeky, but one has to exploit these things to one's own advantage. I have learnt to take only a small bag that fits under the seat, and under normal circumstances my wife and I sit separately - often at opposite ends of the plane. Since Covid, of course, we have decided to shell out and sit together, so I have to listen to the tinny sound of film soundtracks leaking out of her earphones, while she has to tolerate the sound of my snoring leaking in. It may shock you to learn that under normal circumstances my wife is more than happy to travel at the other end of the plane from me, and would, I suspect, pay good money to see that situation maintained.

So, until this year, my wife would settle at one end of the plane with her iPad and a film, and I would strike up conversations with complete strangers at the other. In the main, this has been a deeply enjoyable process, and there are times when I've almost felt moved to write to little Mr O'Leary and tell him how much I appreciate his social engineering project. For example, on one trip I spent both the outward and return journeys sitting next to men who both shared my interest in motorcycles and were both drummers in bands. The fact that they were completely separate people made it all the more bizarre. By the end of a three hour flight I had pretty much heard each of their life histories - and the huge advantage over one's regular friends is that you never have to hear it again.

A couple of years ago I was sitting at the gate in Athens airport when I noticed a couple in front of me. He was only a few years younger than me, and his wife was what I can only describe as bewilderingly beautiful. Imagine my delight, then, when I boarded the plane and found that she was sitting in the same row as me, with an as yet unfilled seat between us, and that her husband was weaving his way to the other end of the plane. We began a very pleasant conversation, although, with my glasses on I could see that her admittedly impressive beauty had almost certainly been contributed to by a confection of cosmetic surgical intervention. After about half an hour, it seemed only polite to suggest to her that her husband might want to join us in the empty middle seat. 'He'll be fine' she said flatly, 'but what about your wife?'

'She'll be fine too' I responded, truthfully.

Shortly afterwards, her husband came ambling up the aisle, and she introduced us. I suggested that he join us, and - blow me - he did! He was a nice enough bloke but nowhere near as nice as an empty space.

The previous year I had sat next to a woman who told me that she was a 'Life Coach'. Based on other life coaches that I know, this indicated to me that her life had collapsed in a fairly serious way recently, and she now felt equipped to lend her experiences to others in an effort to save them from a similar fate, and to charge a large fee for doing so. This may strike you as a jaundiced view, but I suspect that 'life coach' like 'interior designer' is a profession which - unlike, say, 'lawyer', 'doctor' or 'architect' - has no strict definition in terms of minimum qualifications. You can wake up in the morning and say 'Today I'm going to be a life coach' and by the time you've finished breakfast, you are one. She told me that she lived in Sandbanks which is the bit of Bournemouth where footballers live (my words, not hers) and that they had demolished a house and built a new one. She showed me some pictures of a construction that had something of a beached ocean liner about it, both in style and heft. She explained in a slightly quaking voice that seemed laced with latent hysteria, that the house was so massive that all the neighbours were 'up in arms' - as neighbours so often seem to be - and that now everyone hated them and no one would talk to them. In life coach terms it seemed to me something less than a total success.

Shortly before Covid I was sitting alone in a middle seat when a deliciously eccentric-looking older couple came and sat on either side of me. I suggested that they might like to sit together but they insisted that this was how they liked it. He liked the aisle. She liked the window. The conversation rambled happily between the three of us for the whole flight. They lived in Hampstead but had a house near ours in Kefalonia. He had been at St John's College, so knew Cambridge well. She was Greek but had lived in London most of her life. Once we had landed, he asked for my email address and promised to stay in touch. He wrote it in pencil on the corner of his newspaper (Le Monde - it says something about a man - especially if you're not flying out of France). Now, I don't know about you, but if I write something on the corner of a newspaper I've lost it before I've even put my pen down, so it was no surprise that I heard nothing from him. Then, at least two months later an email pops up suggesting that we need to drink a bottle of red together next time we're in the same place.

But Ryanair's Social Interaction Russian Roulette isn't all beer and skittles. A year or so ago I was again alone in a row watching my co-travellers shuffle past. It's the approach of the obese ones that's really scary: when you're as bulky as I am (and even if you're not) you don't want to be stuck between Donald Trump and Demis Roussos, although that's probably quite an unlikely scenario. I was quietly relieved when a slightly-built young woman slipped into one empty seat, and a few minutes later, another. We exchanged light conversation and when we had taken off and the seat belt lights were out, the girl in the middle excused herself, explaining that her boyfriend was at the back, and had a vacant seat next to him, so she was going to join him. No sooner had she gone, than the other one said that her boyfriend was also at the back, and would I mind awfully if he came and sat in the now-vacant middle seat? Why should I? What could possibly go wrong? When she returned with him he wafted past me in a haze of what was possibly the most vicious body odour that I have ever had the misfortune to experience. I spent the rest of the flight trying to breathe sideways.

When we landed, and I was reunited with my wife, I asked how her flight had been. 'OK' she said, 'It started badly because I was sitting next to a bloke who smelt absolutely dreadful, but after a few minutes his girlfriend came to get him and he disappeared, so I ended up with an empty seat next to me. I pity whoever he went to sit next to!'

## Notes

### ***Dinah Asplin***

*Cathy, Matthew and families*

The family of Dinah Asplin would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the cards, letters of sympathy and for the donations made in her memory.

It has been very comforting to receive so many personal memories and kind thoughts.

We would also like to thank everyone who came out to pay their respects along the High Street, it was touching for all of us and very much appreciated.

### ***Barn Owl boxes around Horningsea and Fen Ditton***

*Keith Emerson*

So I've made and with help placed three barn owl boxes at a house along High Ditch Road. One box pictured has an inspection door on the right protected by roofing felt. The other opens from the lid. The protruding entrances allow barn owls to sit and peer around but feel safe.



There were two successful nests at the one location along High Ditch road which was very unusual. Two of the boxes have cameras.



With a total of 15 boxes on one farm in Horningsea there is a need for new boxes in different locations. With 80% of barn owls nesting in man made boxes it's important to place boxes to increase barn owl numbers.

Barn owls can sometimes be seen flying along the River Cam near Bottisham lock at dusk and early dawn. If you've never seen a barn owl put it on your bucket list because they are a wonderful sight to behold.



### ***Win a river trip!***

In conjunction with the Parish Council, Camboats are pleased to announce that they are able to offer occasional river trips from St Johns Lane river moorings. This has been approved by the Parish Council for a one year trial. It will involve picking up and dropping off passengers who have booked to have an event or meal at either of the village pubs. The boat will only be at the mooring for 15-20 minutes whilst the passengers are being dropped off and/or picked up again.

Booking a river trip service is available for residents of the village too. Have a look at the [Camboats website](#) to see the range of services they have.

To celebrate this trial Camboats are offering a lucky dip prize for two households in the village. This will be for a family or small group of friends for a sixty minute round trip on their Eco Solar Electric Catamaran 'Princess Charlotte'. The all electric boat was purchased 2 years ago and lockdown has been the perfect time to upgrade it to being fully off-grid solar powered!



Camboats have been based at The Plough in Fen Ditton for over 17 years with popular trips going into and out of the city centre.

To enter the prize draw simply go to the Camboats website and use the 'Contact' page form, sending your Name, Postcode, and either an email or telephone contact number plus a message saying 'Horningsea Herald'. There is also an option to sign up to receive Camboats newsletter should you wish.

The prize draw will be made at the end of April 2021, with the prize being redeemed on a mutually agreed date and time later in the year. T&Cs apply.

[www.camboats.co.uk](http://www.camboats.co.uk)



### ***Horningsea Short Story Competition***

Thank you to everyone who has entered a story. The Judges will be reading them during April and we hope to arrange a literary "event" during May - perhaps when we can gather together somewhere. Details will be circulated in good time.

### ***Village Concert: Thanks!***

Thank you to everyone who took part in the village concert on 20 March - it was great fun and the audience (probably about 50+ people) thoroughly enjoyed it. From Ivy's own composition on the ukelele to Richard's singing of the Hippopotamus song via piano pieces, violin, cello and double bass - we have the making of a string quartet - songs, recorder playing and a variety of reading about spring and other things (some written by the performers) it was a wonderful variety. Perhaps next time we can manage a live concert when we can all be together again.

## ***Bottisham Village College - Adult Learning courses***

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months where Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult for us to provide some courses.

Now that we can see light at the end of the tunnel we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

To build up our programme we are recruiting new tutors, so if you have skills in the following areas and are passionate about your subject, do you have spare time to teach an Adult Learning course?

Arts and Crafts, Cookery, Dance, Eco/Environmental/Upcycling, Health and Wellbeing, ICT Skills, Languages (including BSL), Music or anything else.....?

If so, please contact us for further information:

[www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning](http://www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning)

Tel: 01223 811372 email: [adultlearning@bottishamvc.org](mailto:adultlearning@bottishamvc.org)

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott

## ***Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2021***

*"The Parish Council meets every second month on the last Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (May, July, September, November, January and March). "*

*For the foreseeable future meetings are being held virtually. Email [clerk@horningsea.net](mailto:clerk@horningsea.net) for an invite.*

- 26th May
- 28th July
- 29th Sept
- 24th November

Meetings may be rearranged due to external events, but you can view "Horningsea events/meetings" on the Horningsea Herald calendar:

<https://goo.gl/4592dL>

You can also add it to your own calendar directly using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/MrNWfg>

## ***Horningsea Assists - mutual aid group***

We wanted to remind Horningsea residents that help will be available for any Horningsea resident that will be shielding or vulnerable.



Ways to ask for help:

- Post in the Horningsea Residents Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HorningseaResidentsAssociation/>

- Email [horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com](mailto:horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com)
- Call: Graham Haynes on 07723 472858

If you want to volunteer your help then email [horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com](mailto:horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com).

Please ensure that your neighbours are well. A phone call can make a difference to somebody alone.

### ***Fruit and Vegetables in church porch***

We have decided to stop putting items in the church porch as it seems that the combination of vaccinations, warmer weather, return to school .... has meant that fewer people appear to need them at the moment. Thank you to everyone who has made donations to the food and to those who have made donations to the Parish Charities.

If you know anyone who is in need of a modest grant please let the Trustees know [ldathorningsea@gmail.com](mailto:ldathorningsea@gmail.com)

If there is further outbreak of the virus we will once again restock the church porch.

### ***Public Calendar of Horningsea events***

There's a public calendar to share Horningsea events. This is a busy little village and it can be hard to keep track of all the different events. Anybody can view the calendar with this link:

<https://goo.gl/4592dL>

You can also add it to your own calendar directly using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/MrNWfg>

### ***How to submit news to the Herald***

The only guideline for news is for events and articles that are of direct relevance to the inhabitants of Horningsea. The Herald does not accept advertising, but one off "news items" may be used to publicise local businesses. To submit news items either email "horningseanews@gmail.com" or submit them via Twitter.

<https://twitter.com/horningseanews>.

In these lockdown days all villagers are invited to send in recipes, thoughts on lockdown, photos of the village past and present, your hobbies! If it interests the editorial team then it gets published!

You must submit by the 2nd or 4th weekend of the month, the Herald being published before the first and third weekends of the month. Submission of any news items implies consent to any editing and the editorial team's decision is always final. **Always send as plain text via email.** Do NOT send formatted documents. Do NOT send articles as PDF or Word files. Stay under 700 words, preferably less. Attach any photos to the email. If you send in a PDF or image of a poster/flyer then attach a paragraph of text to go into the Herald as well.