



*Almost time for Horningsea Village Day!*

## **Horningsea Herald**

**Issue #187 June 2024**

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)

## **Events**

### ***Environment Sunday***

**Sunday 2nd June, St Peter's Church**

**10.30 - Communion Service**

**14.00 - 16.00 - Horningsea School Reunion** - welcome to everyone who went to Horningsea School, their family and friends, and to anyone researching their family history with Horningsea connections. There will be displays of photographs of Horningsea in times past - sports teams, school photos, buildings, farmers and farming, memories from Horningsea during the WWII. Tea and cakes will be on offer.

**15.00 to 17.00** - come and explore the wildlife in Horningsea Churchyard- find out how many moths were trapped in the churchyard overnight, and help identify them. Check whether bugs and beetles have been using our Bug Hotel. Can you find any sign of the hedgehogs who live in the churchyard - or foxes or small mammals who regard the churchyard as a home. Look into the hedges to see how many varieties of fruiting plants we have - can you see any bird nests?

Horningsea churchyard is alive with wildlife, help us to make a record of what can be found in 2024. Help us apply for an Eco Church award.

**18:00 - Six inches of soil** - the acclaimed film will be shown in Horningsea Church on Sunday 2nd June at 18.00. The film explores the inspiring story of British farmers standing up to the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. We owe our whole existence to six inches of topsoil -and rain! Regenerative farming - farming as our ancestors did - is becoming the new way to farm. Colin Ramsay, the Director of the film

who lives in Horningsea, will give an introduction to the film and will be able to answer questions at the end.

The film was shown to great acclaim at the COP 28 conference in December 2023 and has sold out at showings all over the country. Tickets will need to be purchased in advance at \$10 a ticket

<http://kinema.com/events/six-inches-of-soil-1h4eql>

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5141>

## ***Horningsea D-Day 80th anniversary celebrations***

### **Saturday 8th June, 14:00 - Village green**

The Horningsea Residents Association invite you to join them to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on Saturday 8th June, with a Tea party on the Village Green, come and raise a glass to honour the memory of the men and women who came from all over the world to liberate us.

Join us 14:00-16:00 for a drink and enjoy 1940's music and home-made cakes.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5182>

## ***HRA Village Day***

### **Saturday 29th June, 14:00 onwards, Village Green**

The HRA invite you to Village Day 2024 on Saturday 29th June.

This yearly event kicks off at 14:00 with Vee's Tea's and home-made cakes.

Enjoy stalls, classic cars, lawnmower racing and games.

A bouncy castle for the little ones, mega slide for the bigger ones and **new this year** gladiator jousting for the energetic ones, free for all.

If that wasn't competitive enough enter our Knobbly knees competition with our very own Catherine Morris on the mic.

Don't forget to bring a few pounds for this year's raffle.

There will be wine, beer and a BBQ.

The evening's entertainment will start at 18.30 with music and dancing to a band and the evening will end with a disco for all of those Dancing Queens still standing until they can't stand anymore.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5177>

## ***Patronal Festival for St Peter***

### **Sunday 30th June, St Peter's Church**

A day of celebration in the church. It is the Patronal Festival for St Peter and also the first time that our curate Sharon Byrne will be able to preside at a service of Communion. She will have been ordained Priest in Ely Cathedral on the Saturday.

There will be celebratory fizz after the service, a picnic and barbecue in the churchyard. Come along, join the celebrations and bring a contribution to share at the feast!

## ***St Peters Church services for May***

- **9th June 16:00** - Village Service
- **16th June and 23rd June** at St Mary's Fen Ditton.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5160>

## **Upcoming Events**

### ***HRA Dates for Diary 2024***

- Saturday 8th June 14:00-16:00 – **80 years since D-Day**
- Saturday 29th June – **Village Day – Vintage Theme**
- Sunday 30th June – **St Peter's Church Day**
- Saturday 13th July **Horticultural Show**
- Saturday 28th September 14:00 **Apple Pressing**
- Sunday 3rd November **Bonfire Night**
- Sunday 1st December **Christmas Tree Lighting**
- Monday 27th January 2025 **HRA AGM**
- Saturday 8th February 2025 from 18.30 **International Evening**

Watch the village website for the latest updates throughout the year:

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5180>

### ***Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2024***

- 17th July, 19:30 Village hall
- 25th September, 19:30 Village hall
- 27th November, 19:30 Village hall

<https://www.horningsea.net/community-parish-council>

## **Reports**

Please send in photos or reports of any village events to [horningseanews@gmail.com](mailto:horningseanews@gmail.com)

## ***Normandy D-Day 80th anniversary***

*John Wilson*

Last week we returned from a trip to Normandy following in the footsteps of Ronald Hibbert, the father of Roma Wallis a close friend. Ronald landed on Juno Beach in the first wave of the landings at Berne Sur Mer. Roma's Dad commanded a flail tank of the 22 Dragoon Guards and on landing in the first wave flailed a path through the mine fields on the beach and then on into the town where a mine destroyed his tank, luckily the crew survived to collect a second tank and continue on their mission. By the end of the day the Canadian troops they assisted were several miles inland and the surviving tanks set up camp in the village of Cresserons.



Flail tanks were part of a collection of tanks invented by an unconventional army Major General named Percy Hobart, who overcame army resistance in creating what was to become known as the "Hobarts Funnies". Sherman and Churchill tanks were modified to carry bridges, Flail tanks for mine clearance, flame throwers, swimming tanks, Fascine carriers, for filling in ditches and a host of other combinations to be used to help the troops to cross the beaches

Thirty years ago we made our first trip to the area along with her partner and later her husband Robert Daws who lived at the Priory on the high street, accompanied with her father's original landing map. At that time the village was not developed and we were able to trace the route over the open ground behind the village to where the tank was destroyed in the then unfilled anti-tank ditch. Now the area has been developed and



retracing his route is obscured. Last year we started to follow the route south to Cresserons where by chance we met the Mayor who took us to the town square, where a memorial had been set up to the 22nd Dragoons, adopted by the village. This intern led to an invitation to go back this year for the celebrations on the 7th June where a host of events were planned for the celebrations of the surviving veterans and families of the regiment. Sadly Roma could not attend, but we were put in contact with the organisers of the event who we met last week, both in their 80s and were able to hand over more information about the Dragoons stay in the area, researched by us. We were able to visit the site of the camp where the Dragoons were based, from where they sallied forth on their mine clearing missions across Normandy. It is now open fields but a small stone memorial stands in the hedge to mark the site.



From there we travelled west to the new British memorial at Ver sur Mer, the name of the 1475 British serviceman who died on D day are listed on a hill looking over the Gold landing beach on white stone pillars. In the fields below are the 1475 silhouettes made of steel, representing each of the men and women who fell that day. They are placed beneath the monument in a meadow above the beaches they landed upon.

Later on in the week we walked the Beaches of Omaha where thousands of Americans were killed on D Day .Had the Americans not rejected the offer of Hobarts Funnies the outcome may well have been different. Sadly now they all now lie in the cemetery above the bluffs.

I have walked this beach several times. Imagine Brancaster beach, miles of golden sand with holiday makers, and dog walkers. That is how it is today. The shifting sands still reveal traces of the horror that took place here. This year the bow ramp of a Higgins boat, which landed the soldiers was revealed .There will be many images over the next few days showing the soldiers packed behind a similar door about to land on this beach. Ronald went on flailing mines; saving countless lives. In the course of the war he lost three more tanks before ending the war at Bremen. After the war he married and returned to the profession he was in before joining the army, one of the few that made it from the beaches of Normandy until the end

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5182>

## **Notes**

### ***Temporary closure of Jesus Green and Baits Bite locks***

*Conservators of the River Cam*

*Navigation authority for the River Cam, between Cambridge and Bottisham Lock*

21 May 2024

Due to safety concerns regarding the structural integrity of the lock islands at Baits Bite and Jesus Green, the decision has been taken to temporarily close the locks until further notice. More detailed structural investigations will be undertaken and a plan for remedial works developed urgently. The Conservators are engaging with the Environment Agency and Local Authorities to seek a coordinated approach.

Further information:

Tracy Yarrow @ [clerk@camconservators.org.uk](mailto:clerk@camconservators.org.uk)

Mob: 07549 018909

### ***New Life, the Parish Magazine***

New Life is the Parish Magazine produced by the churches in Horningsea, Fen Ditton and Teversham. It costs £5 a year to subscribe and ensures you are kept up to date with whatever is going on in the Three Parishes. If you don't already get a copy let one of the Church Wardens know and you can be added to the list!

## **Fen Ditton Community Primary school - news**

### ***Appointment of Interim Executive Headteacher***

*Anglian Learning Trust*

Anglian Learning Trust are delighted to announce that Miss Charlotte James will become Interim Executive Headteacher of Marleigh Primary Academy and Fen Ditton Community Primary School with effect from 1st September 2024 until the end of the Autumn term. Miss James will be supported by Mrs Cara Hearn and Mrs Alice Parker as Executive Deputy Headteachers, with Mrs Stacey Chapman from our Linton Heights Junior School as Interim Executive Deputy Headteacher for three days per week for the Autumn term.

### ***Parking outside Fen Ditton Primary school***

*Fen Ditton Primary School Governors*

It is now getting very dangerous to park outside Fen Ditton Primary school - traffic is increasing and the road works keep starting and stopping. There have been a number of near misses as cars try to do three-point turns before or after dropping children. Teachers now have to stand outside and manoeuvre bollards to make sure there is

space for "blue badge holders" - putting themselves at risk of being injured. A request has been made to Highways Dept (Cambridgeshire County Council) for the lay-by to be designated "Blue Badge holders only" but so far the request has not received a positive response. The school therefore asks all parents/carers to park in one of the side roads and walk the last few hundred metres, leaving the lay-by for blue badge holders.

### ***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>.

All villagers are invited to send in recipes, stories past and present about Horningsea, 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.