



Horningsea Bonfire night is on the 3rd Nov.

Horningsea Herald

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For further information on Horningsea visit our village website at:

www.horningsea.net

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

horningseanews@googlemail.com

Events

Halloween Spooky party at the Plough and Fleece

Friday 1st November, The Plough and Fleece

Boo! You are invited to our spooky party on Friday 1st November. With live music from the Cushy Punts, a Best Costume Contest and of course Trick or Treat

Horningsea Firework and Bonfire

Sunday, 3rd November, Village green

The days are getting shorter which means it's almost time for this year's Horningsea's Firework and Bonfire event organised by the Horningsea Residents Association.



This year's celebrations are on Sunday November 3rd and will take place on the Village Green. Gates will open from 17.30 for Hot Dogs, soup, snacks, hot drinks and music.

Fireworks will begin at 18.30 - lighting of the bonfire in true Horningsea style to follow.

Adults £5 & over 5's £2.50 - correct cash on the gate if possible please.

We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5314>

St Peter's Church

A Time to Remember

Saturday 2nd November at 15:00 at St Peter's Church

As part of the season which includes All Souls and All Saints, there will be an opportunity to join together to remember those you have loved who are with us no longer and to light a candle in their memory. Whether your loved one died recently or a long time ago do come along for this special, quiet and contemplative service.

Remembrance Day in Horningsea

Sunday 10th November: 10.15 at St Peter's Church; 10.45 at the War Memorial in the Jubilee Gardens

The traditional Service of Remembrance will be held as usual in Horningsea leading to the 2 Minutes Silence at 11 o'clock. During the Service John Wilson will tell us about the men of Horningsea who died in the first and second World Wars. This year he will also ask us to remember Capt James M Farmer, an American pilot who died when his plane crashed on Quy Fen in July 1945. He was a highly decorated pilot of the 84th Fighter Squadron, 78th Fighter Group who had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters. Poppy wreaths will be placed on the War Memorial by organisations based in the Village.

Late Evening Service of Compline

Wednesday 20th November at 20.30, St Peter's Church

This is a short contemplative service to bring the day to a close. If you feel in need of a peaceful space to wind down after a hectic day, then do come along.

St Peters Church services for November

- Saturday 2 November 15:00 A Time to Remember
- Sunday 10 November: Remembrance Day
 - 10.15 in the Church - 10.45 in the Jubilee Gardens
- Sunday 17 November 10.30 - Holy Communion
- Wednesday 20 November at 20.30 - Late evening service of Compline

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5326>

Upcoming Events

HRA Dates for Diary 2024

- 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**

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

Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2024

- 27th November, 19:30 Village hall

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

Advent Windows in Horningsea

Once again Liz Harrison will organise volunteers in the village of Horningsea to decorate a window in their house for Advent – she will need 23 volunteers as the last “window” will be the Church Porch on Christmas Eve. Many people in the village take it as a challenge to spot the window of the day – you hear people saying things like “I cant find number 16” or “ I have only just found number 7”! If you would like to take part please contact Liz on lizhakeman@hotmail.com by the middle of November. If you have a particular day you would like to be allocated please let her know – and the reason!

Horningsea Candlelit Carol Service

Sunday 8th December at 18:00

Liz Harrison will be coordinating the decoration of the Church for the Candlelit Carol Service. If you have never been, the church is filled with many hundreds of candles all of which have to be put in place in good time. If you have been to the service you will know how splendid the church looks with the oil lamps lit and the hundreds of candles flickering in the dark. Liz will need help from the weekend of 22 November to ensure that everything is in place by 8 December. Please come and help – give an hour or so over that weekend or during the week ... or subsequent weekends until all is ready!

Reports

Please send in photos or reports of any village events to horningseanews@gmail.com

Harvest in Horningsea

The local farmers and allotment holders contributed to the Harvest service with accounts of how the harvest has been here in the village and also nationally. Each wrote about the impact of the rain and the failure of some crops to germinate. Robin Truss explained that some of his crop had suffered from a fungal infection – ergot – which is an hallucinogenic and in times past after a wet summer, when people used the grain to make bread and began to act “oddly”, witches were accused of casting spells in the village! Fortunately there is now a method of cleaning the crops – but it adds to the costs and lowers the profits. Slugs seem to have been one of the areas of growth this year! Gayton Farm sheep have done well – and despite the vagaries of the weather it seems that the farmers and allotment holders remained in good spirits. Produce was sold at the end of the service and over £80 was raised for Farm Africa, a charity we have supported for many years.

Fen Ditton Community Primary School - news

Term dates

AUTUMN TERM 2024	SPRING TERM 2025	SUMMER TERM 2025
Term Starts – Weds 4 Sept School Ends – Fri 25 Oct Half Term - 28 Oct – 1 Nov School Starts – Tues 5 Nov Term Ends – Fri 20 Dec	Term Starts – Tues 7 Jan School Ends – Fri 14 Feb Half Term - 17 Feb - 21 Feb School Starts – Mon 24 Feb Term Ends – Fri 4 April	Term Starts – Wed 23 April May BH – Mon 5 May School Ends – Friday 23 May Half Term - 26 May – 30 May School Starts – Tues 3 June Term Ends – Wed 23 July

Fen Ditton Primary School Reception 2025 Entry

There’s two open days in November for 2025 reception parents, as well as the possibility to book individual tours of the school.

Group tours:

- Tuesday 19th November, 10:00
- Thursday 21st November 14:00

The deadline for admission applications is 15th January, 2025

Contact us on office@fendittonprimary.org or 01223 292342

Parking outside Fen Ditton Primary school

School has respectfully requested that only parents who have and can display a blue badge park in the lay-by mornings and afternoons, unless you have prior permission from the school.

They also want to make all parents aware that MUST NOT block the school gates, this includes the gate to the school car park and the gate to the playground, as these must be accessible at all times.

Notes

Bell ringing in Horningsea

The monthly Bell ringing practice will be at St Peter's Church on Wednesday 13 November 7 – 8.30pm. Why not come along and have a taster session.

Horningsea Parish Charities

The Trustees of the Parish Charities will meet in early December to consider how to distribute the income to those in the village who are in need. In this time of cost of living demands and cuts to winter fuel benefits it is important that the Trustees are aware of anyone – old, young, single, families ... who might be struggling and who would benefit from a small grant to help see them through the winter months. Please contact the Trustees if you know of anyone who might need some help: horningseaparishcharities@gmail.com or 07855 282020

Building work at the Church

Plans are afoot to repair the floor in the north side of the church and to make the access to the church tower safe. It is a slow process getting the architects specifications, a Faculty (permission from the Diocese) and then find the money to pay for the work. The church council will be applying for grants but may also be asking for help in fundraising. Offers of help will be happily received!

Horningsea Planning

Solar Farm proposal

A proposal has just been put onto the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Portal for a large solar farm behind the site for the proposed Sewage works relocation.

[Planning Application](#)

Horningsea: Past and Present

Ships that pass in the night

John Wilson

In the late 1960s the Suez Canal was closed which meant that all ships on passage to the near and far east were routed round the Cape of Good Hope, from there they dispersed to their destinations across the Indian Ocean.

Leaving ports like Liverpool and Birkenhead where you locked out on the tide would mean forming an impromptu convoy heading down the Atlantic towards the Cape. Merchant ships mostly travelled at the same speed of about 13 to 15 knots meant you would all stay in an extended gaggle for several days, until the variations of course and speed caused you to lose sight of each other.



Sometimes on a quiet watch you would call other ships up on the signalling lamp, for a chat. Eventually everyone would dip beneath the horizon and then you would find ships going north who would call you up for any news from home. It's hard to think of it now that apart from the warbling in and out frequency of shortwave radio you were cut off from the world until you neared port again. Sometimes the radio operator would pick up something of interest,

but there was no any in-depth news and the internet that we all take for granted now

I remember once being anchored off Lobito in Angola when the BBC sent out a general broadcast to ships there that they should leave because of an uprising, some crew members were ashore and scurried back with tales of what it was like to be caught up in a revolution. Needless to say we hurriedly departed.

On another occasion while on a cargo passenger ship heading North from the Cape I was called up with the familiar call sign of "what ship where bound"?, and then followed by the question "did we have a doctor on board"? Being a small passenger ship we carried a doctor, so the master was called and after a long communication by Morse light as the other ship did not have a working vhf radio, the ship's doctor was called. Doctor Flower decided that he needed to be taken over to the ship as



his diagnosis was that the patient probably had appendicitis.



When dawn broke we launched a lifeboat and set off over the long Atlantic swells where the doctor boarded the ship with difficulty and after a considerable time reappeared and said he needed the crew member to be transferred back to our ship. Luckily the weather remained fairly calm and he was brought aboard safely where Dr Flower carried out an emergency operation. I don't remember the details of who was involved but it must have been in primitive conditions but it was successful, and we then put into the

port of Dakar where he was landed where he went on to make a full recovery.

Several years later I was standing on the bridge over the hundred foot river at Sutton Gault where I was surprised to meet Dr Flowers and his wife who had recently moved to Cambridgeshire having recently remarried. It came as a shock to learn that shortly after this meeting in 1972 I heard that the cargo ship mv Royston Grange was transiting the River Plate where it was in collision with a tanker called mv Tien Chee travelling in the opposite direction. Both ships burst into flames resulting in all the crew of the Royston Grange including Doctor Flowers losing their lives along with several on the other ship

The phrase, "Ships that pass in the night "has so many meanings in the way it affects all our lives.

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!

Cam Conservancy statement on Baits Bite and Jesus Lock islands

The Cam Conservancy just issued an update on the closure of the locks. £1.5 million per lock to stabilise the islands and they say they do not have the money so will have to explore external funding. However, when they can go ahead they are going to start with Baits Bite lock.

<https://www.camconservancy.org/general-5>

The state of the lock islands at Baits Bite and Jesus Green is presenting challenges to the Conservancy. Visual and underwater camera surveys show that the fabric of both locks is unstable and vulnerable to collapse. Both lock islands carry public footpaths over the river, and the footpath at Baits Bite was closed by Cambridgeshire County Council at the same time as the Conservancy closed the lock and remains closed.

Both locks will require stabilisation work to make them safe in the short term and rebuilding in the medium term. The immediate stabilisation work is likely to cost around £1.5 million per lock, with the need greatest at Baits Bite. Rebuilding the locks is likely to cost at least £5 million each, probably more. Funds for the immediate stabilisation work are not readily available to the Conservancy, and the medium-term rebuilding of the locks is beyond the Conservancy's financial means. The Conservancy's income comes almost exclusively from fees, which just cover routine operations and it receives no additional funding for capital works. As a result, the Conservators are exploring potential sources of external funding. Since the damage was reported, the Conservators of the River Cam have commissioned further surveys and appointed an external project management team, beginning with the immediate stabilisation work at Baits Bite to reopen the navigation safely as soon as possible. The Conservators are about to appoint the principal contractor for the work.

The Baits Bite stabilisation project will have four phases:

- 1. Planning and preparation. This includes the appointing of the project management team, principal and other contractors, and ensuring that all regulations governing building work, and Construction (Design and Management), health and safety at work, etc. will be met.*
- 2. Enabling works. These include investigation, preparation, and assessment of the site, and ensuring an appropriate design and understanding of the scope of the works required.*
- 3. Stabilisation works. Even just the lock island stabilisation is a significant engineering project.*
- 4. Monitoring. When the stabilisation works at Baits Bite are complete there will need to be a monitoring phase to ensure that the lock is safe to reopen.*

The Conservators will use the experience gained at Baits Bite in the Jesus Lock stabilisation project.

The Conservators want to be in a position to safely re-open the navigation as soon as possible, but it will not be possible to open the Locks until this work has been done. The Conservators' principal concern is safety -- the safety of members of the public, river users, and the Conservators' staff and contractors.

The Conservators will give regular updates during the Baits Bite stabilisation project.

General

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.