



First Apple Day - Sept 2010

HORNINGSEA Herald

Issue #144 October 2020

**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

St Peter's Church Horningsea Services

The services in the three churches are as follows:

- Sunday 4th October 10:30 Fen Ditton: Harvest followed by Blessing the Animals in FD churchyard
- Sunday 11th October 10:30 Horningsea: Harvest and sale of produce
- Sunday 18th October 10:30 Teversham
- Sunday 25th October 10:00 for 10.30 Zoom service

Liz Harrison will organise the flower arrangers to decorate the church for 11th Oct. please come and bring fruit and vegetables to sell for Farm Africa. We will also have a box to collect tins and dried food to take to the Food Bank.

Don't forget to wear your mask!

History of Horningsea Church book for sale in the church £5 a copy! Apologies to those who were not able to connect to the Zoom Talk last Sunday. The talk was recorded and we hope to put a link on the Village website.

The Big Bike Revival

Saturday 10th October - Horningsea Village Hall

Get your bike up and running again with CyclingUK's Big Bike Revival's Dr Bike repairs.

Book a 30 minute slot then bring your bike along and a friendly mechanic from Outspoken Cycles will carry out an inspection, make necessary repairs and fit any minor necessary parts.

All for free! Book now! See the attached flyer for more details.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/123195433859>

Horningsea Development

North East Cambridge consultation (NECAAP)

The reason behind the sewage works relocation (possibly to Horningsea) is the development of 8,000 houses on the land between the A14, Cambridge North station and the Science park. This is a large and dense development with 13 storey buildings at its core.

It's the end of the consultation on Monday so if you haven't given any feedback, then now's your chance:

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/213/37771>

Cambridge has a great shortage of affordable housing. However, is this a suitable development for a post-covid Cambridge? Part of the development is 275,000 m2 of office space. Covid19 has fundamentally changed office working. Without those offices would they need to move the sewage works at all or need to build such densely packed housing? Would sacrificing greenbelt be the start of a very slippery slope and see Horningsea swallowed up in large development? Especially when 11,000 plus houses are already being built around Waterbeach. It's disingenuous to separate the North East Cambridge consultation from the sewage works consultation, just so they can say they are building the new community on brownfield land and ignore that they are sacrificing green belt land to enable it.

The following essay is a good read on how such dense developments could fundamentally harm Cambridge and its special character:

<https://www.thecambridgecommons.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TCC-GBR-report-v2.pdf>

Here's an excerpt:

"This accelerated rate of economic growth is not possible without great harm through the collateral damage it would cause to Cambridge itself and to our near neighbours. Harm through even higher housing costs, increased traffic congestion and delay, even more unreliable public transport, environmental pollution exacerbating the climate emergency, yet more "densification" within Cambridge itself, destruction of large parts of the precious Green Belt essential to the "special character" of Cambridge and our neighbouring villages, and excessive strain on our health, education and other social infrastructure. The least well off and able to cope would suffer most."

Built-in obsolescence?

Richard Pleasants

Over the months of lockdown I've contributed a regular piece to the Herald which sometimes has a serious point, but is principally aimed at raising a wry smile in a time when there is very little to smile about, but what I have to say here is no laughing matter.

We have all been invited to comment on the waste water treatment plant proposals, the alleged justification for which is the liberation of brown field land at the existing WWTP site in Milton for the NECAAP project for which the period for responses is about to close. In my response to Anglian Water I described this as "a scheme whose 'pre-Covid' thinking will make it obsolete before it is complete."

When I began in practice as an architect, the Building Regulations was little thicker than a pamphlet. It is now many volumes. It grew hugely as a result of the [Ronan Point disaster](#) and I foresee another vast expansion as a result of Grenfell. The way we design buildings - and regulate the process - is still largely reactive rather than proactive. However, Covid and the possibility of similar events in the future, are in the process of producing a step change which will accelerate a completely different concept in our building needs. Many who have worked from home satisfactorily during lockdown are vowing never to return to regular office working. Consequently there will be huge over-supply of office space. Many cite the potential to convert offices into residential space, but this is a glib and naive solution. Office buildings are fundamentally unsuited to residential use both in form and location. Furthermore, demand for any form of high-rise living accommodation will collapse as people become increasingly unwilling to use shared access spaces and lifts. As increasing numbers of people work remotely, the need to live near cities or stations (or indeed in this country) will decline and a whole new form of ideal development will evolve which will be fundamentally different to that proposed by NECAAP. On this basis I regard the whole rationale for the relocation of the WWTP and the redevelopment of the existing site as being massively and fundamentally flawed, and I would urge you to respond accordingly to the consultation process if you agree with me.

Where shall we live ?

Claire Daunton and John Williams, District Councillors - Cllr.daunton@scamb.gov.uk, cllr.williamsjg@scamb.gov.uk

We hear a lot about Cambridge and its surrounding area attracting people to come and work in different kinds of jobs. It's a good area to live; lots going on; plenty of green open space. But we know it's hard to find somewhere affordable; there is such a shortage of housing.

It's a duty of our local councils, both City and South Cambs, to make sure there are enough houses, including affordable houses, for renting and buying. But to do that we need places to put the houses, sites for building, that we can agree are the best place for them.

So, the 'call for sites' went out from the councils last year and now we can see the results. Well over 600 sites were put forward by landholders, both groups and individuals, suggesting that their sites could be considered for development. The council has not proposed these sites, it is the landholders who've put them forward.

The council is obliged to publish this information so you can see, by following the link here, which sites have been submitted.

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/site-submissions/##a10>

But – and this is a REALLY IMPORTANT POINT, A POINT OF FACT - these sites have not been assessed in any way for building, and they have no planning status. Last time there was a 'call for sites' in 2011, at this stage of the process close to 400 sites were put forward and only 34 went ahead for development, less than 10%. It would be wrong, then, to jump to any conclusion based on the list that's just become available on which sites, and how many, might go ahead for building this time round.

You might say, well why not wait until some more assessment has been done of suitability and appropriateness? Good question! The answer is transparency. We need to involve everyone in the whole process of selection, right from the beginning.

The next stage is to engage as many people as possible in discussions on how best we use available space: how we build sustainably and in a way that lowers our carbon footprint; how we make sure to retain green spaces; how to ensure as many of us as possible can live and work in the way that is good for the whole area as well as for us personally; how we make sure we can provide sufficient and efficient public transport.

We will all want to have a say in this and our planners will want to hear from us and take our views into account as they begin to assess further and sift the sites according to strict criteria. All our comments will help shape the outcome.

Look out for the next stage of the consultation process in the new year. There will be calls to get involved and plenty of opportunity to do so.

Horningsea Past

My Horningsea Adventure part 7.

Vee Saunders.

On the 24th of this month I will have lived in Horningsea for 31 years, experiencing many aspects of village life which if I am honest has enriched my life. I have always enjoyed a challenge and to try pastures new, so when Bill Parker decided to start a painting group nearly twenty years ago I thought this would be an interesting challenge.

I turned up on Bill's first evening clutching a watercolour pad and a box of very old paints feeling a little out of my depth. The other group members arrived with well equipped boxes of paints looking as if they knew what they were doing. I need not

have worried, Bill immediately put us all at ease, with his friendly and structured way of running the group.

I can't exactly remember what we did on the first night, but I do know it left me feeling relaxed, very much part of an enthusiastic group with a very talented water colourist Bill Parker ready and willing to share his knowledge with us. As the weeks and months ticked by Bill taught us about perspective, mixing colours, the art of 'a wash', every one of these techniques so vital in painting watercolours. Mary, Bill's wife, always came during the evening to provide us with a welcome cup of tea or coffee helping to add to the relaxed atmosphere with her friendly warmth.



To give us another dimension to the Art Group, Bill organised for a friend of his, Bill Newton a professional Artist and author of artistic books to provide full day Workshops usually during the summer months. This would happen at least once a year and was always an interesting, thoroughly enjoyable day. Bill Newton would give us a demonstration in the morning, we would break for lunch, provided by Mary, Pauline and other members, always delicious and very welcome. In the afternoon Bill Newton would give us advice as we painted, usually trying to copy his painting from the morning. The whole day was always a wonderful experience.

As the years ticked by and with Bill's guidance I managed to paint a few reasonable attempts here are one or two examples. My favourite are the butterflies which much to my surprise was bought by a visitor to the village one summer years ago. I had entered it along with its companion of birds in the Horticultural Show, I somehow managed to get third prize which amazed me at the time so when an American visitor to the village asked if they could buy the pair. I was completely bowled over and agreed having regretted it ever since! I think they are somewhere in Los Angeles. In all seriousness I could not have managed it without Bill Parker's guiding hand and miss not being able to attend his classes, my failing sight makes it difficult. Never to be daunted though, I might give it another go, be on your guard Bill!



I have never regretted turning up that night and was fortunate to meet over the years many interesting and talented artists so thank you Bill for deciding to start your Art Group, I will never forget the fun I had and learning a little about how to paint.

All things being equal with the Covid 19 situation, Bill is still able to hold his class in the Village Hall keeping strictly to the rules and guidelines. The charge is £20 for 10 evenings held on Thursday evenings starting time 19:30. If the rules change I am sure Bill will let the Village know.

Lockdown thoughts

Letter from Lockdown

Richard Pleasants

Shortly after the Second World War, a group of Leys School boys produced a study of population change in Horningsea, dating back to 1066. It's a dry old read, the lads' lack of enthusiasm for their subject oozing from every page. I'd quote you a bit, were it not for the fact that the editor of this great organ and myself have, between us, managed to lose the only copy. But the salient points are these - as far as I can remember. At the time that it was written (about 1949) the population of Horningsea was approximately 300. Nine hundred years earlier in 1066 it was 300 odd, and at the time of the Magna Carta, about 800 years ago, the population was around the 300 mark, whereas today the population is 300 - ish. In fact, with the exception of a bit of a dip - around 50% - about the time of the plague - and an upturn - about 50% - around the coprolite boom, things have remained pretty stable. It's no wonder the boys lost the will to live.

When I was browsing the BBC News website a couple of months ago I noticed that the first item was our great leader telling us that the pandemic would all be over by Christmas - which is what they said about the First World War. The second item was the medical officers telling us that Coronavirus would be with us for 'many, many' years - if not decades. Item 7 was about a little man called Depp who wears eye make-up and is given to throwing tantrums - or should that be tantra? - and item 8 was a prediction that by the end of the current century many countries would have

suffered dramatic population decline. One notable exception to this will apparently be Nigeria, which will be reassuring to all those worried about a world shortage of people with the capability to set up internet scams aimed at relieving you of your life savings. Sweden and Japan are predicted to suffer a 50% fall in population by the end of the century. Many countries, it predicted, would be competing for migrants.

The knee jerk reaction to this news is to say 'Oh well, there are too many people in the world anyway.' Anyone who says this has clearly never read *The Children of Men* by my mother's old school chum Phyllis (aka PD) James. There was a film made of it in the early 1990s starring the excellent Clive Owen and the less than excellent Michael Caine. It is set in 2021, but no children have been born since 1998. I've seen it three times over the last 25 years and every time it gets a little more plausible: migrants caged at ports and railway stations - surely not. Population decline is by no means the reverse of population growth: it rots from the centre outwards, like a tree.

A few years ago, we toured northern Greece with our Greek neighbours. As we approached Lake Prespas, which has in its middle the borders with Albania and Macedonia, we rounded a corner and were confronted by a police roadblock. Our friends and chauffeurs cursed quietly: they had forgotten to bring any papers. We waited in the car while they went to talk to the gun-toting, Ray Ban wearing policemen. Presently, the most officious looking officer flamboyantly turned over a new sheet on his clipboard and began writing vigorously. I foresaw a night in the cells - at least. He tore off the sheet viciously and thrust it at my neighbour. As she got back in to the car, she said 'Right! I have the name of the hotel where we stay tonight and the restaurant where we will have dinner.'

We drove through the deserted streets of the lakeside village, and found the only hotel, which had been closed, but opened up specially for us. As we entered the taverna next door the owner got up eagerly from the only occupied table 'You are here!' she said excitedly, 'My brother he tell me you are coming. I make special meal for you!'. We enjoyed a delicious meal of absurd cheapness. The following morning we enjoyed breakfast on the deserted quayside with the owner's family - including the policeman - now off duty. I tried to pay for us all and to include a fat tip. 'Is from me' I was told. It's actually hard to spend money in Greece. The owner's father took us on a boat trip on the lake and told us that there used to be 1200 people living in the village. There were 80 when we visited. As we left, it occurred to me, that we had seen no one other than the family.

In another village, I was told there were 40 single men, all working the small farms that their parents had left. The women had long gone. It's the same story over much of central Europe. It was on the tip of my tongue to suggest that what they could do with was a couple of hundred refugees, but thought better of it. The following year Lesbos was inundated.

It was not clear to me from the news item what the cause of this decline is. A friend tells me that there is a high level of oestrogen in the water supply due to.. oh, you don't want to know, and that this is causing men to lose their sexual urges and to start growing breasts. I had been wondering what was causing it. Add to this economic and

environmental uncertainty, and things look even bleaker. Now, I'm the first to encourage members of the MGB GT community to carry on doing whatever it is that they do to each other, but the stubborn fact remains that the act of procreation requires input - however brief - from both a man and a woman - biologically speaking. Traditionally, this process often began by sidling up to someone from the typing pool at the photocopier, but now there are no typing pools and no photocopiers and sidling up is illegal.

If we're not going to end up bidding for migrants to look after us by growing our food and staffing our care homes and hospitals, we'd better think of something pretty sharpish to get the juices flowing again. As with everything else, this will undoubtedly take the form of a government funded app to help you find the love of your life and get breeding, although it will need to work better than the Track and Trace, otherwise it will just involve a lot of sitting around doing nothing interspersed by the occasional unwelcome phone call - rather like my own youth, in fact. It could start with a simple 200 point questionnaire to help define the person of your dreams, linked to bluetooth to help you pinpoint suitable candidates and avoid wasted time by going to the wrong parties or clubs - assuming either happen ever again. In my own youth, such a person would have had a strong physical resemblance to certain female pop stars - I'm thinking Debbie Harry/Olivia Newton-John (black satin trouser version, not yellow cardie, of course). This was quite a big ask, but now that female pop stars look like Adele, I imagine it's rather easier to achieve. Finally, there needs to be some government induced stimulus - I'm thinking of re-jigging public sector uniforms (nurses, WPCs, traffic wardens) along the lines of a 1973 episode of The Benny Hill Show. It may sound silly, but it's no sillier than subsidising the restaurant bills of those who can afford to eat out with the taxes paid by those who can't.

Right. Better get on with it. Once that population starts to slide downwards it may be very hard to get it up again.

[Horningsea Shops and Pubs](#)

A thank you from us . . .

From The Crown and Punchbowl.

I think it is safe to say that 2020 has not been the year any of us hoped or expected. It has been difficult for all in our industry and your support during this time has been crucial. We have had to diversify in many ways to keep our customers and business safe for the future.

If you haven't yet visited us since our reopening, we want to assure you that we have many new procedures in place and when you do visit us, things may be a little different from the moment you arrive.

However, we are looking forward to seeing you very soon and will be offering you a very warm welcome!

Have a starter or dessert on us.

When you dine in with us from 1st September to 31st October, and a main course is ordered, have a free starter or pudding to the value of £7 on us. Just present this advert to your server on arrival. This can be used multiple times but only one per visit and does not include sharing dishes.

Advance Events

St Peters Church plans for Christmas Carol Service

Lindsay Davies

It seems we will still have Covid rules and regulations in December when we normally have our Candlelit Carols. The Church council is thinking how we can have "alternative" Candlelit Carols and would like to hear your suggestions and offers to take part. The current thought is we could do a "hybrid" service with about 30 people in the church and everyone else on Zoom. We could have a small choir (about 6) singing some Carols in the church, others singing or instrumentalists playing Carols on Zoom from their homes. We could have readers in the church and some on Zoom. We could see if we can "broadcast" the service into the church grounds if anyone wants to stand outside. We could see if Fen Ditton school choir would record some Carols which we could show during the service ... so many options! Let one of the church wardens know if you have ideas or if you would like to take part or could help with the technology!

HRA Calendar of events for 2020

Forthcoming Dates for Diary 2020-21 (don't write in pen).

- 1st November Bonfire Night
- 29th November Christmas Tree Lighting
- 20th January AGM
- 30th January International Night

Reports

Please send in reports and photos of Horningsea and relevant events to horningseanews@gmail.com

Notes

Horningsea Assists - mutual aid group

In preparation for a second wave and any possible lockdown 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
- Call: Graham Haynes on 07723 472858

If you want to volunteer your help in the coming months then email horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com.

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

Horningsea Parish Charities

If you know anyone who is struggling financially as a result of the consequences of Covid, with furlough scheme ending, so many businesses going into liquidation and lots of redundancies, and if you think the Parish Charities can help please get in touch with John Wilson, Michael Gingell or email ldathorningsea@gmail.com. We may restart the "vegetables in the porch scheme" as winter draws in.

Friends of Horningsea Church AGM

Helen Skaer was elected as chairman and Nicky Asplin as Treasurer. Michael Harrison and John Rooke had run the Friends so effectively for many years that a great big vote of thanks was given to them at the Annual Meeting!

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.