



*Bonfire night - 2014*

## **HORNINGSEA Herald**

Issue #145 November 2020

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**

### ***Remembrance Sunday in Horningsea***

#### **Sunday 8th November: Visit the War Memorial in the Jubilee Gardens**

This year we had decided to hold the whole of the Service outdoors at the War Memorial in the Jubilee Gardens. However, with the new lockdown rules in place from Thursday this is no longer possible.

The church will remain open for private prayer. Wreaths will be placed on the War Memorial. You are asked to hold the two minute silence at 11:00, wherever you are. Why not light a candle at some point during the day too.

We should all try to recall all those who lived through the wars with a greater understanding following the way we have changed our lives since March of this year. Many veterans say that the War was nothing like this .... They "kept calm and carried on" for five years, ending 75 years ago. Schools did not close, places of entertainment and pubs stayed open – unless they were bombed. Food was rationed but many people grew their own, made do and mended. Nevertheless the last months have brought home to us all how important it is to us all to think about our communities and to try and become more self supporting as bread making, vegetable growing and sharing have risen in priority.

There can be no live church services on any of the next four Sundays but Zoom services will continue each week.

## Advance Events

### ***Will the Horningsea Candlelit Carol Service take place?***

No one knows what the Covid rules will be in December but Horningsea Church Council is working on a plan so that a form of Carol Service will take place at 18.00 on Sunday 13th December. ... partly live and partly by Zoom. As we cannot sing as a congregation we hope we can have a small choir to sing some Carols, we hope to have a choir of Local children to sing and play Carols on their musical instruments. We will have Christmas readings in between the music. We will have some candles, but not as many as usual. We will need to restrict the numbers coming in to the church, but may see if we can broadcast the service into the churchyard as well as by Zoom. If you have any other ideas or if you can help, especially with the technology, can you let the Horningsea Churchwardens know so that as many people as possible can join in.

### ***HRA Calendar of events for 2020***

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

- 20th January AGM
- 30th January International Night

## Horningsea Past

### ***My Horningsea Adventure part 8.***

*Vee Saunders.*

As November begins to unfold, we usually have so much to look forward to. Bonfire Night with all the fun of a firework display, preparing the bonfire, cooked sausages provided by faithful villagers as they man the BBQ, all in all a fun community evening. Then on a more serious note, there is Remembrance Sunday, when we are able to hold a short service in Church and then a laying of Poppy Wreaths in the Memorial Garden, where we have our own small but nevertheless 'War Memorial'. Horningsea for as long as I've lived here, has shown the greatest respect for those since WW1, WW2 and other conflicts who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

The HRA have often held celebrations in Remembrance of those fallen, there was one year in particular that stands out in my memory and that was in 2015. The committee members organised a DIG FOR VICTORY campaign which entailed digging up part of the Village Green, so we could plant vegetables to be harvested in the fullness of time by the Villagers. So many villagers took part in this and



I believe it was John Wilson who acquired a very old hand plough enabling us to dig the area. It really was a real Dig for Victory in the spirit of WW2. It turned out to be a lot of fun.

As a child during that war, my parents turned our back garden as did many others, into a vegetable garden. My Father gave my brother and I a small area to encourage us to grow vegetables. I decided in my wisdom, to turn mine into a flower garden, this was not appreciated by my Father, who gave me a ticking off for not growing vegetables. I remember aged about seven years saying that "Flowers were pretty and made us happy if we felt sad". My Father capitulated but suggested I grow some carrots too! I agreed, but my marigolds were something to behold!



During the same year 2015, the HRA also organised to celebrate the end of WW2 on May 8th a wonderful celebration, by having a Village Day, when we could dress up, we had a picnic lunch, followed by exhibition dancing by a group of Lindy Hop dancers. It was fabulous and certainly gave us a wonderful atmosphere. Some of the children dressed as refugees and looked very authentic with labels attached to their coat lapels. My dear friend Mary Biggs, who sadly died about 4 years ago, joined with me as WVS

canteen workers. We dressed up to look the part and Cath Martin joined us as Land Army Girl to give a hand.

Also during the celebrations John Harrison and a good friend to the village, Felix Evers built a replica of an unexploded bomb (see pic ). Felix and his wife Nana both Germans lived in the village for several years and fully joined in village life.

As a child, living through WW2 definitely still means a great deal to me, in the knowledge had Hitler defeated us, our lives would have been significantly different with unbearable consequences.



My paternal grandmother was German born in Berlin so I cannot imagine how my father must have felt during WW2. His Mother died just before the war, but had experienced prejudice during WW1. I remember being terrified the Germans would invade, but learnt from my parents that prejudice is not the answer. I witnessed this after the war when we lived in Devon near a German prisoner of war camp. In about 1947 two of the prisoners were allowed to help in the garden. My Mother always gave them a hearty meal and when one of them Paul Vogel was taken to the Royal Naval Hospital in Plymouth because a wound he had acquired in battle had opened, my Mother obtained permission from the Camp Commander to visit him. This must have taken a lot of nerve. Paul the young German never forgot her kindness, he was only about seven years older than my brother. If his parents hadn't

been living in the Russian zone of Berlin he would have stayed in England. My Father kept in touch with him for many years and we knew he was happily married.

All of these memories and others are with me on Remembrance Sunday and I always lay a cross for the unknown soldier. Their sacrifice gave me freedom, this is something I will never forget..

Sadly it doesn't seem as if we will be able to hold a service in the Memorial Garden this year. The Church Wardens will let us know, so watch out for news from them.

UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL.

## Lockdown thoughts

### *Letter from Lockdown*

*Richard Pleasants*

Letter from Lockdown

By far the scariest part of my week in recent months has been picking up the Sunday papers. I barge my way through the shop door with hands held upwards like a surgeon entering theatre, then I skitter down the aisles being careful to avoid people in pyjamas who look as if they might cough. I grab the papers and shove them at arms length under the perspex screen whilst holding my breath. I swipe my card and then squirt a dollop of sanitiser into my palm before executing the really dangerous bit: I grasp the door handle between finger and thumb right at its base (I see this fitment as being positively bristling with little gurning Covid gremlins) and then scuttle out of the shop gasping for breath and sanitising furiously.

It's strange to think that only a few short years ago, my idea of a good day out involved dragging my knee along the ground round Coram Curve at Snetterton with my tyres right on the edge of traction. I knew full well that should those few square inches of rubber choose to let go, I would be sliding along the tarmac on my bottom at 90mph, while my bike cartwheeled off into the landscape. Clearly, at some point, my perception of risk has undergone a seismic shift.

Back in the sepia days when people sat around in smoke-filled taverns waiting for television to be invented, someone must have said 'I know! Why don't we invent a game that involves throwing heavily weighted objects with a very sharp spike on the end across crowded bar rooms into a board fixed to the wall? To make it more interesting we could fix wires to the board so that every so often the heavy pointy thing ricochets off and pierces a bystander.' I'm fairly certain that at this point nobody said 'Wait. Before we do that I think we should carry out a risk assessment.'

At about the same time, some people who had been clinging to a rock in the middle of the Irish Sea must have grown tired of looking at sheep, and said 'Look. We've got 37 miles of winding mountain road with only a few lethally slippery manhole covers, although admittedly it's largely flanked by flesh-ripping bone-smashing dry stone walls. Why don't we encourage people to race motorcycles round it at speeds of up to

170mph?' And so the Isle of Man TT was born. I'd like to be able to report that the Manxmen's (yes, men I suspect, not women) cavalier attitude to health and safety has been rewarded by near-zero fatalities, but I can't, because it hasn't. The death rates have been gladiatorial.

One of the most famous heroes of the TT as well as other races around the world was Mike Hailwood. His presence dominated the TT as he cheated death for over a decade. But risk has a way of coming round and biting you from behind. One evening in 1981, Mike loaded his two children into his Rover and headed off to the local chippy with a view to a fish supper. The lorry driver who turned across their path was fined £100 for causing the deaths of Mike and his daughter, Michelle. His son David survived and went on to work with my daughter for a couple of years. He's a mild and kind man who drags his burden of grief around quietly and stoically - as many of us do.

Some years back, we designed a building that leaked. It wasn't meant to, but it did. And so it fell to me to go up onto the rolling acres of aluminium roof to try to find out why. The contractor had helpfully erected a scaffold to access the precipitous roofscape, which itself was fitted with a 'mansafe' system which consisted of anchorages onto which you clipped a lifeline attached to a harness. I wrestled my way into the harness which was like a cross between a structural one-piece bathing costume and a chastity belt, and - still gasping and sweating from the effort - asked for the lifeline. 'They haven't arrived yet.' he said, deadpan. Using a fair bit of Anglo Saxon-derived language I questioned him on what he felt the point of a harness without the attendant lifeline actually was. 'Well, it's better than nothing.' he replied, still deadpan. I drew breath to press my point, but then realised that his evaluation of risk was very different from mine. Whilst his was to do with how many boxes he could tick (Harness - tick. Lifeline - no tick. 50%) on his risk assessment form, mine - possibly over-simplistically - was merely about not dying. Silly me.

During the summer, some friends encouraged me to try paddle-boarding. 'No thanks. Too risky' was my reply. This, as you can imagine, solicited a fair amount of ridicule. My logic was this: Whilst the risks attached to attempting to stand on a floating ironing board in eighteen inches of still water are admittedly slight, the rewards in the unlikely event of my being able to stay vertical for more than a second and a half are even smaller. Hence, in the Risk v Reward Stakes, paddle-boarding was a non-runner. Yet, later the same day, I was winding the throttle open as I stormed past six cars and a truck on a section of winding road. The exhausts were bellowing as I cleared the last vehicle and dived immediately into a blind left-hander. The adrenalin rush almost made my head burst. One day - if I'm lucky - it's how I'll go. Better that than halfway through an episode of Homes under the Hammer, stuck by a residue of my own bodily fluids to a wipe-clean wing-back chair that hasn't been wiped clean.

For those lucky enough to find it in their imaginations to believe in such things, I suspect that the arrival at the Pearly Gates is a lengthier process now than previously ('Please wait here for the next available staff member. Social distancing is no longer required'). It may afford time for a short period of reflection on the risks taken - or not taken - in life. I'm willing to bet that there are as many regrets - if not more - for those

not taken. A mountain (unclimbed); an ocean (unsailed); a limpid-eyed stranger with a voice like warm sand...

## Reports

Please send in reports and photos of Horningsea and relevant events to [horningseanews@gmail.com](mailto:horningseanews@gmail.com)

### *Harvest in Horningsea*

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Horningsea Harvest Festival. As expected the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and foliage gathered in the village. Local farmers Robin and Carolyn Truss sent a message about their harvest ... barley will be used for animal feed as it was not of sufficient quality for selling to breweries. The pea harvest was not a success! Michael Gingell brought some photographs of the earliest combine harvester used in Horningsea from the 1950's, a photograph of himself as a toddler sitting on his first pony and his father's Horningsea Home Guard uniform. This was a poignant moment for Michael as he is retiring from farming next year. His father came to Horningsea to Farm in 1936, so as Michael and Val retire to Northfields it will be the end of an era. The sale of produce in aid of Farm Africa raised £80. We have supported Farm Africa each harvest for many years. They work with farmers in DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia. In addition to coping with droughts, floods and pandemics the farmers also have to cope with farming in time of war and political instability. This year we also gathered tins and dried goods to give to Cambridge food bank. Three boxes of food have been delivered.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:horningsea-assist@googlegroups.com).

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

### ***Horningsea Parish Charities***

#### **Vegetables and Fruit in the Church Porch from 1st November**

As many people have been made redundant and other self employed businesses have struggled to keep going can we remind residents of Horningsea that the Parish Charities may be able to help with small grants. This may assist you with a week's worth of shopping or with feeding the children or payment of an electricity bill. Please let one of the Trustees know if you or anyone you know might benefit from a grant. We will restart the scheme of putting fruit and vegetables in the church porch for everyone to help themselves from 1 November. The Trustees are Michael Gingell, John Wilson and Lindsay Davies. Email [ldathorningsea@gmail.com](mailto:ldathorningsea@gmail.com)

### ***Real Advent Calendars***

Jennie Pratt

From the same people as the Real Easter Eggs (remember them? Seems a long time ago!). The Church has 20, they are £3.99 each. If you would like one, please contact Jennie Pratt. Any leftover will go to the Foodbank.

The 2020 calendar comes with an illustrated 24 page Christmas story-activity book. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. There is a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. Foiled for

freshness, palm oil free, recyclable box and tray and the company makes a donation to charity.

A great way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. Doesn't have to be just for children!

## ***Collecting for Besom Christmas***

Jennie Pratt

For those contributing to the Church's collection of items for the Besom Christmas bags, you can either place these in the box in the Church on Wednesdays and Sundays or leave them in Jennie Pratt's porch at the Old Vicarage. The items will be taken to Besom on Saturday 28th November. More details in New Life but as a reminder the items requested are limited this year to Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, custard, biscuits (chocolate, shortbread or savoury), sweets, tea or coffee or drinking chocolate.

## ***New Life Magazine***

November's New Life magazine has been distributed. A copy can be viewed on the village website:

<http://www.horningsea.net/archives/3617>

Please support our advertisers if you can.

## ***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.