



**Horningsea Herald**

Issue #146 December 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)

*Horningsea Advent calendar - day one!*

## Events

### ***Horningsea Advent Windows***

**1st to 24th of December, All of Horningsea.**

From 1st December you can walk around the village and each day find a new window decorated with a Christmas theme. Thank you to all 23 participants and to everyone who will follow the trail. The last window on December 24 will be in the Church Porch.

The Windows can be found in every part of Horningsea ..the High Street, Priory Road, Abbots Way, St Johns Lane, Dock Lane and from one end of the village to the other. You could photograph every one and create a photographic record of Horningsea Advent calendar 2020!

### ***Horningsea Carol Service***

**Sunday 13th December at 17.30 for 18.00 by Zoom (mostly!)**

Even though the rules and regulations keep changing we have been determined that Horningsea Candlelit Carol Service will take place so we look forward to welcoming you all on Sunday 13th December. It won't be the same as usual because we are not allowed to have more than 30 people in the church and we are not allowed to sing as a congregation, but we have done our best to keep some of the traditional Carol Service in place. We will have some candles, a small choir singing well known Carols, the children singing *Away in a Manger* as the crib is blessed. Traditional readings will be interspersed with a few poems. Our talented village children will sing and play Christmas music on the violin, cello and ukelele. The bells will ring out as usual. I hope that when we dim the lights and hear the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* as a

solo we will all settle down into hearing the retelling of the Christmas story as we do every year.

The Zoom invitation is also on the Village Facebook page, available on request and on A Church Near You.

If you cannot join by Zoom please let one of the Churchwardens know as soon as possible and we will see if we can allocate a seat in church.

And As Tiny Tim said at the end of Christmas Carol "Merry Christmas to you all. God bless you, everyone!"

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/3683>

## ***Christmas Day Church Service***

***Friday 25th December at 9.30***

This year we will have a Family Service to celebrate the Lord's birthday at 9.30 followed by Communion for those who would like to stay. This means that if you and your children don't want to stay for the Communion (which is taking longer because of the Covid Rules and Regulations) you can wave goodbye and make your way home!

If you would prefer to join a Zoom Service you can do so at 10 for 10.30 using the same details as every Sunday.

## ***The sky above Horningsea in December***

***Monday 21st December, above your heads.***

*John Wilson*

There are many celestial events happening above our village that go unnoticed by most people. Later this month there will be such an event that has not occurred since Tudor times. There will be a great conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn on the 21st of December.

Great conjunctions are rare and the last one of this magnitude was in the 1600. Some astronomers think that a Great Conjunction is what led to the sighting of the star of Bethlehem as they have been backward traced to that time (there was a Great Conjunction at 6 BC).

Conjunctions occur when heavenly bodies, either stars or planets, align themselves in orbit and appear brighter.

A Great Conjunction is when Saturn and Jupiter become aligned. Due to their long orbits this does not happen very often. Jupiter takes around 11.9 years and Saturn takes 29.5 years to orbit the sun.

This great conjunction, weather permitting, can be observed low in the south west, i.e. towards Milton sewage works just above the horizon, and can be viewed either by the

naked eye, binoculars or telescope. A good viewing point would be the bottom of Laney meadow.

Remember that if you are using a telescope or binoculars do not be tempted to view any part of the sunset, no matter how weak. Your eyes do not have any pain receptors and significant damage to your eyesight can occur without you noticing it.

If you miss this one then there is another one due in the year 7514.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_conjunction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_conjunction)

## ***Save the Cam - The River Cam is dying***

**Tue 8th Dec 2020 at 18:00**

Feargal Sharkey leads a debate on how to save The River Cam

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/save-the-cam-feargal-sharkey-leads-a-debate-on-how-to-save-our-rivers-tickets-129337388611>

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/feargal-sharkey-the-cam-is-no-longer-a-proper-river-9142858/>

## **Advance Events**

### ***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 Food and Drink**

### ***The Plough and Fleece is open again***

*Mary Corless*

We're getting ready to open our doors again on Wednesday and it's "Loosen your belt" season. If you don't feel uncomfortably full at least once a day in December you're doing something wrong, and we're pros in helping to achieve it!

For bookings please call 01223860795

## **Horningsea past and present**

### ***Letter from Lockdown***

*Richard Pleasants*

I have decided that the time has probably come to start panic-buying whiskey. I don't actually drink whiskey, but that isn't the point.

I keep having disturbing and surreal dreams. The first one was towards the end of June 2016, when I dreamed that the people of the United Kingdom had elected to commit an act of commercial and social suicide, egged on by a ridiculous man with yellow hair who had only urged them to do so in order to further his own career fantasies, but never expected them to actually go for it.

The second was later the same year when I dreamed that another ridiculous man with yellow hair had become President of the United States, despite being a racist misogynist who communicated almost exclusively by semi-literate tweets dismissing everything that didn't suit his dogmas as 'fake news'.

Then, when I thought it couldn't get any worse, I dreamed that all the pubs had closed, and when I went into Cambridge the streets were empty, and Don Pasquale had gone.

But the absurdity of it became even more grotesque when I dreamed that the angry little man with a face like a frog who had encouraged people to vote for mass suicide had reformed his moribund 'Brexit' party into something called the 'UK Reform' party whose chief aim was to fight lockdown, which would mean that even more unfit obese old people from the north of England would die, which is ironic because it was largely they who had voted for Brexit in the first place.

And then I dreamed that the yellow-haired man who conned the British people, carried on conning them by telling them that his advisors and cabinet ministers who were proven to be lying law-breaking bullies were alright really and that was why he wasn't going to sack them, and that he was 'proud' of the way that they and their chums had helped him dispose of billions of pounds of taxpayers money on unusable PPE, unworkable Track and Trace systems and negotiating an 'oven ready' Brexit deal that was just a lie, and the British public just shrugged their shoulders and said that they're sure it'll be alright in the end because he's a jolly good bloke.

And then I dreamed that at last some hope emerged and the American yellow-haired man was voted out of office, but he refused to go, and his absurd old lawyer went on television and ranted about how the yellow-haired man had been cheated, while the sweat ran down his face streaked with leaking hair dye.

And then I dreamed that the English yellow-haired man said that in nine years time you won't be able to buy a petrol car and all cars will have to be electric. This will mean that we won't need to go on holiday either as all we will need to do is set up a sunbed beneath the nearest pylon as the cables will be glowing red hot. So, in my dream, I looked up electric cars on the internet and saw that an electric version of our little cheap Fiat 500 is now available, imaginatively called the 'New 500' and that it is competitively priced at £29,000. Dreams can be so bizarre.

And then I woke up. To the hideous reality.

That there really is an expectation that we will go out and spend the thick end of thirty large on a jumped-up mobility scooter, when for four thousand pounds more I can drive away a lightly used low mileage Aston Martin DB9 with 5.9 litres of throbbing V12 under the bonnet and drive it until the juice stops flowing.

But then the really serious bit dawns on me. If push comes to shove, I can live without petrol cars. In fact, if really necessary, I can live without a car at all. But if they stop making petrol cars, they will, presumably also stop making petrol motorcycles. Fortunately, I have been careful enough to stock-pile a dozen or so, but it's no use if you can't get the juice.

I have a vague recollection from my childhood of watching an old black and white film in which people living on a remote Scottish island benefit from a shipwreck to the tune of about 50,000 bottles of Scotch, and start running their cars on it. Modern petrol has a short shelf life and it's illegal to store more than a couple of gallons, but as far as I'm aware no such restriction applies to whiskey.

## ***Where Death and Danger Go***

*Frank Hopkirk*

In May 2018 our recorder group were playing in St Peter's when a lady came in and had a good look round the church. She stopped by us to listen and, at a suitable juncture, introduced herself as Vicky Knox, an author from Sydney, who was exploring the local area.

At the time she had written two books set in Britain in the early second world war years and then a couple of months ago she emailed to say that she had completed a third book "Where Death and Danger Go", the title coming from Churchill who, in a speech to the House of Commons in 1916, said "Honours should go where death and danger go".

This book is set in 1941 too and the action takes place both in Cambridge and in the local fens, including Horningsea. St Peter's, the Crown and Punchbowl and the Bridge get a mention and are the site of some action, as are Lode and areas further afield.

I enjoyed reading the book. It's quite fast moving and has an intriguing plot which ties together historical events of the time. The reading was made all the more enjoyable by my knowing the places and buildings where the action takes place. There were certainly some interesting characters involved and it's a pity Rev. Wisdom passed St Peter's quite late in the evening. If he'd been a bit earlier he might have heard recorders playing! Obviously though, as a book written about wartime, it gets rather gritty at times.

I wrote to ask her what made her choose this area and she replied "I begin a story based largely around a small, almost insignificant historical fact. That fact in this book was the German Spy Josef Jakobs landing in a field in Wistow near Ramsey. Then I research that fact in great detail, often finding other tiny facts that will form the basis of the plot, hence this story was set in Cambridge and surrounds."

This is the third book in the Reverend Clement Wisdom series. There is reference to some elements in the second book in the series, which I haven't read but which didn't matter. For reference the first of the books in the series is entitled "In Spite of All

Terror" and set in East Sussex in 1940 and the second is "If Necessary, Alone" and set in Caithness in 1941. Both are murder mysteries / crime thrillers.

If interested this book by V.M. Knox is published by Book Reality and is available in paperback or as an ebook.

Example: Where Death and Danger Go (Clement Wisdom, book 3) by V M Knox (fantasticfiction.com)

## Reports

### New playground....sliding in soon

Will Neale

We are pleased to publicise that Horningsea is getting a new playground!

With the existing play equipment being condemned and the playground having to be closed, the combined efforts of the Parish Council, Village Hall Trust and Residents Association swung into action and have been successful in obtaining funding from FFC Community Foundation!

As you read this the new equipment is being manufactured and we are expecting the installation to take place at the beginning of 2021. We shall keep you updated, and assuming Boris allows us, we will try to have an opening party in early Spring.

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund and we are delighted that they have approved our funding application!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/3679>



## ***Lucy Frazer end of year update***

*Lucy Frazer MP, South East Cambridgeshire*

As we look to the end of 2020, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the work I have been doing over the course of this year.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us and I want to pay tribute to everyone who has helped and supported their local communities and vulnerable individuals during the pandemic. The response to the public health challenge of Coronavirus saw us pulling together, ensuring that our communities across Cambridgeshire kept connected. And I know that our villages are continuing their great support to others. I was pleased to safely meet with local volunteers in person across the constituency during the summer months – and to take part in regular Zoom updates with local leaders and stakeholders.

The Coronavirus pandemic brought an economic shock to the UK like we have not experienced before, but I am encouraged to see that we are taking steps towards a positive recovery. By the summer, in our area 14,700 furloughed workers were supported through the Job Retention Scheme and 4,600 self-employed individuals were given help through the Self-Employment Income Scheme. 1,687 local businesses received a cash grant of up to £25,000 thanks to the local authority discretionary grant fund. Whilst these measures have brought relief to both employers and employees, local shopping has also brought with it further support over the last few months.

Whilst the government is focused on dealing with the pandemic, other projects are still progressing and I continue to work to improve our area. I welcome the announcement that the Department of Health has awarded Cambridge University hospitals £1.9 million to expedite the complete redevelopment of Addenbrooke's hospital, this will include a new children's hospital. And at the beginning of October, the Prime Minister also announced the building of a new cancer hospital. Residents across Cambridgeshire rely upon Addenbrooke's Hospital for their medical care, and population growth makes its complete replacement with a brand new hospital in the years ahead a necessity.

I have campaigned hard for continued investment in NHS services in our local area, and the construction of a new hospital has my complete support. This development is further evidence of the government's commitment to this scheme, and the NHS more generally. I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure that Cambridgeshire sustains its reputation for world-class medical services.

Furthermore for some I have been pressing for improvements to the A10 and spearheaded the campaign for its dualling. Some progress has been made on this project. There are eight options for the project, and the Mayor and Combined Authority held a virtual consultation during the summer to collect feedback from residents and road users. I have continued to press the Treasury on the importance of this work.

The Greenways scheme is one of the local efforts to improve cycleways by constructing routes between central Cambridge and nearby villages. The routes will help to reduce

pressure on public transport and offer more environmentally friendly ways to commute and get around. I have supported this scheme since 2017, working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership and other local stakeholders to ensure that local residents were involved in determining the routes. This currently includes 6 routes in our area. I am really pleased that the routes to Fulbourn, Waterbeach and Linton have been approved. Having recently met with the GCP and written to the Board to press for further routes I am delighted that the three further routes in Horningsea, Bottisham and Swaffhams have also been approved. I'm looking forward to using the routes and hope you will do the same!

Education has also been a key campaign pledge since I was first elected. Year after year I have taken heads to Westminster to meet the Education Secretary. As a result of much campaigning with teachers and others the 2021-2022 academic year will see per pupil funding increase by an average of 4%. The National Funding Formula allocations reflect a 60% increase in the total additional funding for small and remote schools- and this is good news for small schools in our area who can attract further funding due to their status. I remain proud that East Cambridgeshire is one of 12 Opportunity Areas that enables the region to unlock additional funding.

I continue to hold regular surgeries and am here to help with any issues you may have. Constituents who would like help with a problem or want to arrange a telephone call or a virtual meeting should contact me by emailing [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk).

To keep up with my work follow me on Facebook and Twitter or visit my website – [www.lucyfrazer.org.uk](http://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk).

Best wishes for the rest of 2020 and I hope that 2021 will prove to be a better year for us all.

## Notes

### ***Mary Muhr Award for Contribution to the Cultural Life of Horningsea.***

At the Carol Service we will announce the winner of the 2020 Mary Muhr Award for contributing to Village life in this most difficult year.

### ***Climate chaos: Global warming: Plastic waste: Loss of Species: A challenge to Young People in School or College:***

This is an invitation to any young people to let our readers of New Life Magazine, hear your views on Climate chaos: Global warming: Plastic waste: Loss of Species Please tell us your thoughts in not more than 300 words and if you can, help our readers to think about something that can be done by us to make a contribution to these important issues. Details of how to send in your contribution are in the attached flier



## ***Possible Horningsea Short Story Competition 2021***

Tentative plans are afoot for a 2021 Short Story Competition ... watch this space!

## ***Fen Ditton school Laptop appeal - Can you help?***

Pre-loved laptops, less than five years old, needed to help school children who have fallen behind during lockdown. Any laptops donated will be handled securely and will be professionally wiped clean ahead of use by the school

Please deliver to Fen Ditton Primary School between 10am and 2pm during the school week

Any donations for computer equipment and books would also be very welcome. Fen Ditton school finances are currently very stretched. Please email [george.devine@fenditton-pc.org.uk](mailto:george.devine@fenditton-pc.org.uk) or call 07900 325 336 for BACS details or how to donate by cheque

If you are a student at Bottisham Village College in need of help or financial assistance and you live in the village, please contact George Devine in the first instance on 07900 325 336. Bottisham Village College is also in need of money to buy webcams for students needing extra catchup tuition. Please contact Friends of BVC directly if you wish to make a donation at [www.bottishamvc.org](http://www.bottishamvc.org)

David Yandell of Fen Ditton, is developing a longer term initiative to help our local students. If you want to find out more, please contact George Devine in the first instance on 07900 325 336.

## ***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 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***

The Trustees of the Parish Charities will meet in early December to make grants to anyone in the Village who is in need of support at this time of year. If you know anyone

who might benefit from a grant please let the Trustees know. The Trustees are continuing to put fruit and vegetables in the church porch so you can go at any time to help yourself to apples pears, oranges, carrots, cabbages or whatever else is on the table. Thanks must be given to Robin and Carolyn for donating potatoes, and to the County Council for the grant to the Parish Council which has enabled a few Christmas treats to be added to the table.

The Trustees can be contacted on [ldathorningsea @gmail.com](mailto:ldathorningsea@gmail.com)

### ***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.