



Horningsea lake

## Horningsea Herald

Issue #148 February 2021  
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)

## Honey Hill Sewage works

Here's a mockup of just how large the digester towers <sup>1,2</sup> will be when Anglian Water will relocate its sewage works to just outside Horningsea.



If you think they look big when compared with the existing sewage works at Milton, that's because those towers are partly underground. The digester towers at Honey Hill will be above ground. It is unclear why and also why they are not putting lids on these towers to prevent odour. Anglian Water say no odour mitigation is needed!<sup>3</sup>

Even if you think there is no chance of stopping it, putting up opposition will lead to more mitigation, which

might mean less impact on Horningsea. If they think Horningsea doesn't care, then they know they can build to a minimal possible cost and do nothing to hide the smell, the sight, the noise and the traffic.

Anglian Water will hold a community webinar from 19:00/20:00 this coming Thursday (February 4th) to discuss the site selection decision. You can register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mVELgmKfTZ-gfBDMtZYQnw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mVELgmKfTZ-gfBDMtZYQnw)

(1) As stated by Anglian Water in their Stage 3 Report section 2.3.83, p42

<https://cwwtpr.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CWWTPR-Stage-3-Fine-Screening-Report.pdf>

(2) Confirmed at FDPC meeting - August 2020 - Q5

<http://www.fenditton-pc.org.uk/userfiles/files/meetings/minutes/20200825-23-00.August%202020%20-%20minutes.pdf>

(3) As detailed on pp9 & 14 of the "Stage 4 - Final Site Selection - M. Preliminary odour assessment" document.

<https://cwwtpr.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CWWTPR-Stage-4-Final-Site-Selection-Appendix-M-Preliminary-Odour-Study.pdf>

## ***Horningsea Lockdown Short Story Competition launched today!***

Following the success of the Short Story Competition a year or so ago, we are holding another competition. You are invited to enter a story on the theme of "Light". Details are on the poster attached, on the Village website or from [franjohnstone@me.com](mailto:franjohnstone@me.com)

Maximum of 2000 words for an Adult, 1000 words for a teenager 12 -16 and up to 500 words for under 12's.

Entries can be sent to Fran Johnstone by email to the address on the poster with an entry fee of £5 per story for adults. Children's entrance fee is £1. You can hand deliver your entry to Richard Pleasants at St. John's Barn, St. John's Lane. Entries must be received by 31 March 2021. You don't need to live in the village to enter so you can encourage your family and friends to enter too.

We are planning a literary event if possible when the winners will be announced in May.

Get out your pen and paper or wind up your computer and start writing!

## ***Church Services in Horningsea in February***

As this HH goes to press we hope to have a service in the church in Horningsea on Sunday 14 Feb at 10.30 am. If you plan to come can you let Jennie Pratt know ( the Covid rules means we may have to limit the number coming into the church ...) There will also be a church service in Fen Ditton on 1st and 21st Feb also at 10.30. Each Sunday there is a church service on Zoom also at 10.30 If you would like to have the contact details for the Zoom please ask Jennie. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 17th Feb. We will have a virtual church service, linked to Chesterton church. One day we will emerge from all of this and then have a big celebration! Jennie's contact details are 864513 or [japov7@googlemail.com](mailto:japov7@googlemail.com)

## ***Horningsea Residents Association (HRA) AGM***

### **Wednesday 3rd February at 19:30**

Email Graham (chair) for meeting invite - [Graham.haynes@emmauscambridge.org](mailto:Graham.haynes@emmauscambridge.org)

Agenda:

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies

3. Minutes of AGM meeting held on 22 January 2020
4. Matters Arising from Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Treasurer + presentation of Accounts
7. Horningsea Charities
8. Nomination of Officers for forthcoming year
9. AOB including date of next AGM plus follow on of ordinary meeting.

#### ORDINARY MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Chairman
3. Treasurer
4. Dates of Future Events
5. AOB
6. Date of Next Meeting

### ***Three Parishes Quiz***

**Saturday 6th February at 19:00**

Three Parishes Quiz (by Zoom) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Entry by donation of £5 (suggested) to Macmillan Cancer Support

Prize of a packet of biscuits to the household/bubble and also single household scoring the most points.

You will be marking yourselves so please have a pen and paper handy

### **Horningsea Planning**

#### ***Honey Hill Sewage Works relocation***

*Cllrs Anna Bradnam, Claire Daunton, John Williams*

Anglian Water has announced that it will be applying to the Secretary of State for permission to build a water treatment plant on Honey Hill in the Green Belt close to the A14 between Fen Ditton and Stow-cum-Quy having consulted the public on three possible sites.

This new plant will replace the existing one just south of the A14 opposite Milton but will be considerably smaller in area due to new technology.

Discussions concerning the relocation started in 2014. They went on over the next three years culminating in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority submitting in 2017 a Housing Infrastructure Fund bid (HIF) to the Government for funding to relocate the water treatment plant to build some 7,600 homes on and around the current site.

On 17 November 2015 at a meeting of the then Planning Portfolio Holder two options were proposed. One with the water treatment plant kept where it is and the other to be relocated. Councillor John Williams who was the county councillor for Horningsea at the time favoured having the plant stay where it is suggesting that this was the only practical approach.

But subsequently it was one of the options for relocation that was taken forward by the Combined Authority in its role as the strategic authority for such things. So in 2017 it had already been decided that the plant staying in its current location was not an option.

It should also be noted that the bid was approved by the Government before Lib Dems took control of South Cambs Council, and NOT in March 2019, as announced in a joint press release with Anglian Water, Homes England and the City Council. This mistake has now been corrected.

Announcing that Honey Hill had been chosen, Anglian Water has made it clear that they wish to work with communities. They are indicating that the site will be as green as possible both in terms of landscaping, biodiversity, use of waste to create energy and heat home and production of cleaner water. They also state that they intend to create better cycling walking and equestrian routes through and near the site; and that there will be a visitor and education centre there.

They need to be held fully to account on all these matters. They have been pressed on a number of issues including cost, particularly how the HIF funding relates realistically to what they have indicated they intend to achieve.

They indicate that the two alternative sites were ruled out because they were close to current major infrastructure projects; too distant from the river; closer to existing housing and businesses and a major landfill site and more costly to develop.

Your Lib Dem councillors have opposed the choice of Honey Hill on grounds of traffic disruption to many surrounding communities, destruction of wildlife habitat, the affect on important

archaeological sites; construction and engineering issues. We are therefore disappointed with the choice of the site and will be working with residents to understand better how this decision was arrived at. We will also be holding Anglian Water to account in relation to the promises made concerning the move in general and the particulars of detail concerning traffic, odour, landscaping, biodiversity heritage and the local economy.

The choice of the proposed site is an Anglian Water decision. Official input from South Cambs as the Local Planning Authority comes at the next stage when Anglian Water

consults on its planning application and we will ensure the views of our residents are heard. The final planning consent is given by the Government. It is misleading to suggest that South Cambs should have taken a view on any particular site at this current stage as all met the broad criteria set by Anglian Water.

## **Horningsea past and present**

### ***The sky above Horningsea: My life with the stars 2***

*John Wilson*

One of the most interesting and useful stars in our Northern sky is Polaris or the Pole star. It might not be bright but it has a very special character.

If you picture a globe and the point that it rotates about and project it out into space you will find Polaris the pole star. It acts as a celestial pivot point in the heavens and all other stars in the Northern hemisphere appear to rotate around it.

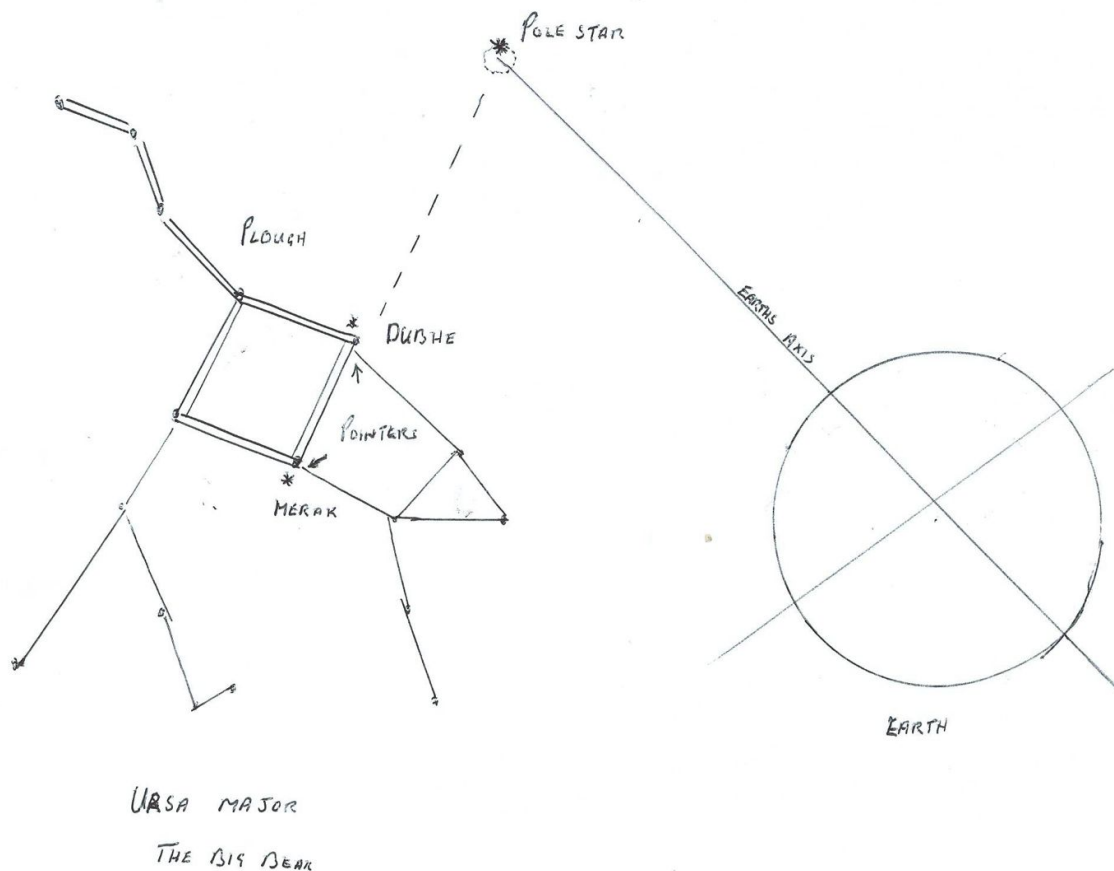
To be precise there is just a tiny wobble to it but this for navigation purposes can be corrected by applying corrections from the nautical almanac. For general purposes once you have found it in the night sky you can find north and hopefully find your way home.

From a navigator's point of view, because it marks the northern axis of the planet Earth it means that at the North Pole it is directly overhead and on the equator it is directly on the Northern horizon.

From this you can deduce from the angle between the Horizon and the Pole star a very accurate Latitude for where you are. I used to think of it as a very friendly star

After many hours of watch keeping while homeward bound in the Atlantic, while heading north from the southern hemisphere it was exciting to see it creep up over the horizon, slowly gaining altitude in the night sky until it was about 53 degrees above the horizon. At which point you would be turning East to make the run up the channel to London and home. At 15 knots on a due north course you could expect it to rise a

degree higher in the sky during your four hour watch.



When you look for the Pole star, it can be easily found in the northern sky on a clear night

The pointers to it are the two stars Merak and Dubhe in the constellation of the Great Bear in which you find the distinctive formation known as the Plough or sometimes known as the Big Dipper

Follow the handle down to the four rectangular stars that form the body of the plough, and then follow up the two right hand stars known as until you find the pole star. Once found you should now never be without a star from which you can find your way home.

### **Letter from Lockdown 16**

*Richard Pleasants*

Not long before he started inciting violent insurrection, Mad Jack McMad signed an executive order decreeing that, henceforward, all new public buildings were to be beautiful. Reading the order, it's clear that old orange-face favours classical building styles 'with columns' preferred (as he sees it) by the American people, over his particular dislike of 'Brutalism', which, as I'm sure you'll know (but he probably doesn't) is a form of modernist architecture whose name is derived from the French

term *Béton Brut*, meaning raw concrete. It's a long time since a style of modernist architecture has received such a powerfully ringing endorsement. Not, in fact, since 1982, when the Clown Prince panned the excellent Ahrends, Burton and Koralek's competition-winning scheme for the National Gallery extension, by famously (what a horrible term) comparing it to a 'monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend', and insisted that instead it be replaced by a pilastered slice of wedding-cake pastiche.

Of course, I must at this point dutifully re-cant the tired old mantra that 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'. There is no reason why I should expect to be able to impose my concept of beauty on the world - even though the 'President' expects to impose his. I would stoutly defend the right of anyone to purchase a white Range Rover with black wheels and have themselves fitted with a pair of prosthetic lips in the name of beauty, even if I perceive the result to be roundly hideous.

If the populist and retrogressive edicts of powerful philistines were allowed to rule the Arts, where would this leave us? Endless repainting of *The Haywain* and minutely adjusted recompositions of Beethoven's 6th Pastoral Symphony? Or - worse - an eternal diet of Jack Vettriano and Jamie Cullum. Tesla, despite (arguably) producing the most technologically advanced and environmentally chummy cars, would be compelled to manufacture them in the image of a pre-war Rover. Yet, despite the fact that women no longer wear bonnets and crinolines, housing developers still ape stage-set-thin building styles from an entirely fictitious 18th Century pastoral utopia, egged on in large part by blinkered mortgage lenders and (sometimes) brow-beaten planners.

I must pause there, and speak up for good planning. It is fashionable, particularly amongst those reluctant to pay for good design, to slate the planners. I once heard them referred to by a very experienced commercial developer as a 'good adversary', and I have held this term in high regard. Conservation officers have a particularly hard time. Yet, in my professional career, I've steered many very large and controversial schemes through planning by not trying to play them for fools. Most recently, I attended a meeting with a conservation officer who was, admittedly, a female architect of a vintage which meant that - like me - she was probably tutored by some of the most vigorous Brutalists who were practicing at the time (Peter Smithson, Neave Brown, Sir James Stirling). I went equipped with two small cardboard models, and opened up with all guns blazing - in the nicest possible way. I slid the first model across the table and told her that if I didn't have to listen to her and her colleagues, or any of the neighbours, this is what I'd be doing. She picked it up and rotated it at eye level: an unapologetically modern building with an entirely glazed ground floor overhung by a sparsely windowed upper floor clad in black zinc.

"Oh yes. Oh yes, we could do this. It might be you and me against the world, but we could do this" she said. I pulled the model back

"But we can't," I said, "because there's a covenant preventing anything other than single storey".

So I slid the other model across - a brutally jagged plan form with curves and angled projections.

"This is the easy option" she said sounding almost disappointed "but can you make the materials a bit more contemporary? We want to tell the 21st century story"

We had set the tempo of the architecture. Planning committees listen to planning officers, and planning officers listen to conservation officers. From then on it was plain sailing.

Living in Cambridge, we enjoy one of the finest living architectural museums in the world. The principal clients - the colleges - are keen to foster buildings which are conspicuously of their time, but will last for 500 years. With few exceptions (Downing - except the lovely SCR by Howell, Killick, Partridge and Amis) they are brave in their patronage of the very best modern architecture. But one of the most oft-quoted examples of alleged architectural incongruity is the juxtaposition of the Queens' College buildings that sit closest to the junction of Silver Street and Queens' Road. The Fisher Building is a curved range of inter-war water-works Tudor. Behind it sits Cripps Court, a 20th Century complex whose first two phases were designed by lovely London architects Powell and Moya (lovely, partly because Sir Philip Powell was generous with his time in mentoring me through my Diploma scheme) and whose final phase - which in my view is the best - was by local architects Bland and Brown. It is a beautifully crafted edifice of white concrete and delicious leadwork, yet is the target of immeasurable quantities of populist bellyaching, most of which revolves around its failure to 'fit in' with The Fisher Building. The only thing that would fit in with The Fisher Building is more of The Fisher Building, and there's quite enough of that already.

My point is this. Not everything that is new will be good, just as not everything that is old is good. Most that is not good will not survive long - which is good. But without the new, we will be left only with the old (or imitations of it) and so will never discover what is both new and good. This has applied throughout time as artists, architects and musicians have battled with retrogressive forces to push forward the leading edges of their art. It simply must happen.

His dismal edict on architecture is one of the less pernicious acts of a man who will doubtless go down in history as the most ludicrous, fascistic, deluded and incompetent president that America has ever been foolish enough to elect, whilst here, Her Majesty clings to the throne - her ancient knuckles white with the effort - to spare us from a man who thinks that good architecture is a Thomas Hardy theme park.



## **Reports**

### ***Playground update***

Will Neale

February is here and we are a little closer to Spring! The start of a new month is also the day when the installation of the new playground begins. We are expecting the installation works to take up to 3 weeks, following which we will need to re-seed the grass and let the safety matting settle. This means the playground will be closed for a few weeks after the new equipment is in. We hope to be open again around mid-spring but we will keep you posted!



### ***Louis Thorold fundraising***

Some Waterbeach residents have set up a Go Fund me page in memory of five month old Louis Thorold. Louis sadly lost his life as a result of a road traffic accident on 22nd of January 2021 in Waterbeach on the A10.

<https://gofund.me/00f07d3d>

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/news-and-appeals/Family-pay-tribute-to-happy-baby-boy-with-joyful-smile>

The family has nominated two charities and the donations will be split between them both.

East Anglia Air Ambulance (Registered Charity Number 1083876)

Brake (road safety charity, Registered charity no. 1093244)

Please donate and share if you can.

## **Notes**

### ***Ultrafast Fibre Internet - Voucher scheme to bring fibre direct to your home***

*Rob Balm, Chris Lindley*

There's a government scheme to bring better internet to rural villages. A few of us are trying to use this scheme to help bring this to Horningsea.

Horningsea has modern fibre (optic) cable to the cabinet in the village. This is unaffected by damp weather and allows very high speeds. However, much of the last "hop" to your house will be using ancient BT wiring which may even be aluminium, rather than copper wire. This wire may have been in place for decades and slows down the speed dramatically. Having fibre will bring the full speed directly to your house and will future proof your internet connection for many years to come.

If we (as in Horningsea) have enough interested houses or businesses then a provider will be able to implement this to each house and every applicant will get a voucher that should cover a great deal of the cost (perhaps as much as 100%). You may have seen this on Facebook or had a flyer through the door.

The voucher scheme is available as long as we apply before March 2021 (or when funds run out).

So let us know if you are interested in full fibre internet by emailing [ultrafast@horningsea.net](mailto:ultrafast@horningsea.net) with your full name, address and postcode. There is no obligation in doing so at all.

For more information, please read the attached leaflet.

### ***Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2021***

*"The Parish Council meets every second month on the last Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (May, July, September, November, January and March). "*

*For the foreseeable future meetings are being held virtually. Email [clerk@horningsea.net](mailto:clerk@horningsea.net) for an invite.*

- 24th March
- 26th May
- 28th July
- 29th Sept
- 24th November

Meetings may be rearranged due to external events, but you can view "Horningsea events/meetings" on the Horningsea Herald calendar:

<https://goo.gl/4592dL>

You can also add it to your own calendar directly using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/MrNWfg>

### ***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 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.

### ***Fruit and Vegetables in church porch***

Horningsea Parish Charities will continue to put a selection of fruit and veg in the porch each week. Thank you to everyone else who has "topped up" the food with other contributions. Please come along and help yourself or pick up something for your neighbours who are still isolating. We know how tough life is for families with children home all the time, for people trying to work from home, for those who have been furloughed or whose jobs or businesses have just stopped. Let us know if you or anyone you know is in need of a small grant [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.