



A frosty start to a Horningsea December

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

HRA Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday 4th December, 18:00, Jubilee Gardens

It's the traditional start of the Horningsea Christmas Festivities. Come and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or two with your neighbours whilst the lights are all turned on!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/4951>

Horningsea Candlelit service

Sunday 10th December, 18:00, St Peter's Church

If you have not been before, this is a very special evening in the Church - the oil lamps are lit, hundreds of candles fill the church, the electric lights are switched off and the church is full! Arrive early to get a seat and wear warm clothes ... The Horningsea Young People's Orchestra will play a specially adapted piece, there will be singing by young people and by the Fen Edge Singers as well as lots of opportunity to sing well known, favourite carols, interspersed with readings telling the story of the Nativity.

Contributions of mince pies will be welcome for refreshments after the service.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/4953>

Horningsea Young Persons Orchestra at the Candlelit Carol service

The Horningsea Young Person's Orchestra will be performing a piece at the Carol service on the 10th of December at 18:00. They will be performing a special Horningsea arrangement of Leopold Mozart's Musical Sleigh Ride from his Divertimento

in F Major. As this includes some percussion (such as bells and theoretically even a whip!) it can be played by people with very little or no musical experience, so everyone who'd like to be involved can be included.

<https://youtu.be/HUUuUwuHtGM?si=NgTmy5qnm5YtURAd>

Rehearsals will be on the 2/3rd of December and also during the day before the Carol Service on the 10th.

Please contact Claudia on lillygoodbrand@googlemail.com if you would like to join in.

A Very Short Nativity

Sunday 17th December, 10.30, St Peter's Church

As it "says on the tin" the Nativity Story will be read for the youngest of our children - we need one Mary, one Joseph, one grumpy innkeeper, as many angels, Wise People and Shepherds as turn up. No one has any lines to learn ...Please come suitably dressed to take part. Bring your parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours. The Nativity service will last about 15 minutes, with photo opportunities at the end for those who are happy to be photographed.

Christmas Day Service

10.30, St Peter's Church

The Service on Christmas Day will be at 10.30 - Holy Communion with Carols. It is always lovely to welcome families and visiting relatives to join our regular congregation on this special day.

St Peter's Church services during December

Services

- 10th December, 18:00 - [Horningsea Candlelit Carol Service](#)
- Sunday 17th December, 10:30 - *A Very Short Nativity in St Peter's Church*
- *Christmas Day Service, 10:30 - St Peter's Church*

St Peter's church says Thank You to Scotsdales for donating the Christmas Tree!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/4876>

Upcoming Events

HRA Dates for Diary 2023

- Sunday 2nd December Christmas Tree Lighting
- Monday 22nd January 2024 HRA AGM

Watch the village website for the latest updates throughout the year:

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/4589>

Christmas at Sea

John Wilson

At this time of year my thoughts go back to some of the Christmases that I had at sea.

I can't say that there were any bad ones with the exception of one and that was crossing the North Atlantic in storm force conditions which made any thought of any celebration out of the question.

I first went to sea in the mid-sixties. A lot of changes have happened since, ships had crews of around forty people, voyages were longer and you had no internet or modern communication like online Zoom calls. Once you left the UK you communicated with home by letter, which if you were lucky came in the mail bag brought on by the pilot, when you arrived at the port. Woe betide the pilot who arrived on board near Christmas with no mail although it was probably not his fault!

Sailing from London and dropping the river pilot at Gravesend often parted with the words, "Have a good Christmas" it may well have been early November then, and not in your thoughts, but a lovely gesture on their part.

Christmas day at sea was much the same as any other except when you changed watch everyone shook hands and wished each other a merry Christmas, and throughout the day you greeted other shipmates you hadn't already seen that day in a similar manner. During the night watches occasionally the lights of another ship would rise above the horizon and this would shortly be followed by the stab of light issuing the Morse code for "AA AA AA", the call up letters followed by "Have a happy Christmas ". It could have been any nationality, but you felt you were not alone.

Once entering the English Channel the horizon was lit up with ships passing on the season's greetings and it looked like a laser show. If you were lucky enough to be in port and watches were broken, it was different and you could celebrate properly, if possible a Christmas tree would be placed up the mast and at midday we would all sit down to dinner together in a traditional manner.

On one occasion the Chaplain from the Mission to Seaman came down and arranged for the apprentices to go to a local family for the day. On this occasion I spent it Christmas day with a family in Wellington, New Zealand

The Mission to seaman or Flying angel was a great supporter to seafarers in those days and still is today. In other ports you were left to your own devices I remember walking through the streets Halifax Canada on a practically cold Christmas seeing the lights on in houses full of people enjoying their family day. I must admit I felt quite low and was only too glad to get back to the ship to be with my "Board of Trade Family", a term used to describe a crew who you lived with for many months and became great friends, only to evaporate into the mist of time when the voyage was over, and probably not seeing them again.

Even today when we have a house full of family at Christmas, I sometimes cannot resist going out into the garden and seeing everyone in the house enjoying the day through the window, it reminds me of that day in Halifax Nova Scotia

Today there are fewer ships at sea, just huge containerships, car carriers and tankers. They have small crews and hardly ever see one another. The biggest event of a voyage is what colour container box is outside your porthole, I believe sweepstakes are run on the results.

When they get to port they turn round in twenty four hours, while the tankers may be moored to a Mono buoy in the middle of nowhere. They have it tough

So wherever you find yourself on Christmas day, enjoy yourself and have a happy Christmas.

Reports

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

Notes

Horningsea Parish Charities

The Trustees of Horningsea Parish Charities will be meeting in early December to look at how we can support all those in the village (including Clayhithe) who might be in need during these cold winter months. If you know of anyone who might benefit from a grant or food hamper (or in some other way) please let one of the Trustees know via [horningseaparishcharities@googlegroups.com](mailto:horningseaparishcharities@googlegroups.com) or tell one of the Trustees (Lindsay, John Wilson, Will Neale or Revd Nick Moir).

Advent Windows

For the last few years the village has joined in decorating the windows in their houses for Advent. From 1st December you can walk around the village and spot the window for each day. Please do not post photos of that day's window before the end of the day on Facebook. However, you are encouraged to post them afterwards!

Christmas at the The Plough and Fleece

On the last Friday before the big day (22nd Dec!) in the evening we will be handing prizes for the best/funniest/most original Christmas Jumpers worn in the evening 🌲 🌲

We will be open for drinks from 12 till two on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Everyone at the Plough and Fleece wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please do visit our Facebook page and please do share and like. It really does help us spread the word.

<https://www.facebook.com/ploughandfleece>

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!

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.