



International evening was the best ever!



Events

Horningsea Horticultural Show AGM

Wednesday 13th March, 19:30, Village Hall.

The Horningsea Horticultural Show Annual General Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on the 13th March at 7:30. All are welcome to attend, and any offers of help would be gratefully appreciated. Please come to the meeting to find out how **you** could help.

Fish n Chip Bingo

Friday March 15th at 18:30 in the Village Hall.

The eyes are down and the chips are up! Horningsea Residents Association are delighted to be running what is always a really fun evening of Fish n Chip Bingo on Friday 15 March.

Doors open at 18.30 for you to buy your books, dabber and place your order for fish & chips, Veggie option available. Find your table ready for eyes down at 19:00. Easter Eggs and alcoholic prizes to be won in every game.

Fish and Chip supper freshly fetched from The Beach Fryer in Waterbeach.

Bring your own ketchup, drinks and glasses and have an excellent evening of fun!

Easter eggs and wine to be won in every game. Good fun for all the family!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5083>



St Peter's Church services during March

Mothering Sunday 10th March: There will be a Mothering Sunday Service at 16.00 in the church when posies of flowers will be distributed to mothers, grannies, aunties, godmothers, families and friends. Liz Harrison will be asking for help to prepare the posies on Saturday 9 March in the morning. After the Service there will be a Mothering Sunday Tea party - scones, jam and cream! Come along as a family and join in the celebration of "Mothering"

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday: There will be a joint Palm Sunday service at Fen Ditton Church at 10.30 - bring a suitable branch to wave during the Procession around the outside of the church. At 19.00 in Horningsea there will be a Concert for Passiontide by the Cambridge Vocal Consort "Love Strong as Death" words and music for Holy Week. No tickets but donations gratefully received.

Monday 25th March at 19.30: Each evening in Holy Week there will be an evening service of Compline- starting in Horningsea on Monday.

Tuesday 26th March at about 10.15/10.30: The Pilgrim Cross walkers stop at Horningsea Church on their way from London to Walsingham. They have a cup of tea and a biscuit, dry out, tend to their blisters then set off again after a prayer and a song. Do come and meet them, and walk with them from Baits Bite to the church. Timing is always rather vague, depends on the weather and the mud!

Thursday 28th March at 19.30: Maundy Thursday was the day of the Last Supper. Come along to the special Maundy Thursday service in Horningsea this year.

Friday 29th March at 12 noon: Good Friday, often called the holiest day of the year. There will be a Quiet Hour service in Horningsea at 12 noon.

Sunday 31st March at 10.30: Easter Day! After you have eaten your Easter Eggs(!) come along to celebrate in Horningsea Church at 10.30. The church will be filled with spring flowers as part of the celebration. Contact Liz Harrison if you can help decorate the church.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5096>

Upcoming Events

HRA Dates for Diary 2024

- Friday 15th 18:30 March **Bingo/Fish & Chips**
- Wednesday 24th April 12:00 **Seniors Lunch**
- Saturday 18th May 2025 **Film Night – Secret Cinema** – Kids film afternoon – All in evening.
- Saturday 8th June 14:00-16:00 – **80 years since D-Day**
- Saturday 29th June – **Village Day – Vintage Theme**
- Sunday 30th June – **St Peter's Church Day**
- Saturday 13th July **Horticultural Show**
- Saturday 28th September 14:00 **Apple Pressing**

- Sunday 3rd November **Bonfire Night**
- Sunday 1st December **Christmas Tree Lighting**
- Monday 27th January 2025 **HRA AGM**
- Saturday 8th February 2025 from 18.30 **International Evening**

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

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5059>

Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2024

- 27th March, 19:30 Village hall
- 29th May, 19:30 Village hall
- 17th July, 19:30 Village hall
- 25th September, 19:30 Village hall
- 27th November, 19:30 Village hall

<https://www.horningsea.net/community-parish-council>

Reports

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

Statement from Horningsea CIC : The Plough and Fleece.

The Directors of the Horningsea CIC (the Community Interest Company that was setup to purchase The Plough and Fleece from Greene King with investment from villagers to be run as a community pub) have issued the following statement.

Dear Horningsea residents,

The CIC board of Directors (Community Interest Company) would like to explain further the upcoming changes regarding the Plough & Fleece.

Horningsea CIC is a not-for-profit organisation and the Directors work on a voluntary basis and our sole aim is to ensure the Plough & Fleece remains open as a pub for community use. Rent received from the pub is our only income. Rent is kept at an absolute minimum to enable the tenant to operate profitably whilst covering the overheads and maintaining a very old building.

When a profit is made, the investors receive a 2.5% per annum dividend, which hasn't been paid since 2022.

Unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons ranging from closure of the pub, loss of the chef on opening day and an inability to pay rent due to poor trading, no rent was paid to the CIC from the end of January 2023 to the 3rd week of September 2023. From 3rd week of September until mid-January only 50% rent could be paid and only since the end of January 2024 to date has the CIC started to receive the full rent.

In January 2023, the CIC had healthy reserves of £8,000. A further £40,000 was borrowed to keep the pub afloat during January to September. This money has now all gone on kitchen refurbishments and pub upkeep. There is now no money for any further expenditure on the pub, including emergency work.

No income means the pub will be trading insolvently, which is not permitted and at the moment relies on the generosity of the Directors to stay afloat. If insolvent the pub could close and be lost forever, once a pub closes the chance of it reopening and operating again are very low.

Currently, when the staff including the Chef have days off for sickness, or emergencies the pub is closed at short notice and no rent is paid for those periods. At present there is no holiday or sickness cover, which result again in closure and loss of income.

Despite multiple attempts and multiple promises from the acting tenant, the CIC still has no signed lease. Again, despite the acting tenant paying the full rent, he is still well in arrears to the tune of around £2,000 in New Year alone.

The CIC has invested £48,000 over the last 14 months to keep the pub open.

The CIC needs income in the form of rent to stay afloat and solvent.

The CIC invited further investment at Christmas when £500 was forthcoming from 1 individual.

The CIC has now been offered a tenant that has financial backing, stability and a strong business model. They are experienced and successful in the hospitality industry. They also have other business interests to support themselves in the formative months.

Furthermore, they have a pool of staff, including a Michelin trained Chef. Their business model is to run a full community pub with events and a full food service. Their rent has been increased.

The CIC therefore has absolutely no option other than to accept the offer from the prospective new tenants. This will remove the threat of insolvency and keep the Plough & Fleece successful and thriving.

The Directors have worked extremely hard and in the last year alone have given hundreds of hours of their own time to keep the pub afloat. This change of tenancy certainly wasn't a decision that has been taken lightly by the Directors, but we are confident that our village pub will flourish under the new tenants and have a bright, more certain future.

We know John and his team are exceptionally popular within the village, and thank them for all their hard work in running the pub, but please accept and have more of an understanding of why the pub isn't financially viable at the moment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and any comments are welcome at info@ploughandfleece.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Horningsea CIC Directors

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Useful links:

<https://ploughandfleece.co.uk/>

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/08704150>

<https://www.banquetinn.co.uk/>

Horningsea CIC Accounts Director.

Mary Kent has decided after 10 years of dedicated service to step down from the position of Accounts Director at the CIC, owners of the Plough & Fleece pub.

Any investors interested in joining the Board of Directors as Accounts Director or non-investors interested in investing and joining the board are invited to apply via

info@ploughandfleece.co.uk

All applications will be responded to.

Duties include ensuring all CIC payments are made in a timely fashion and administering dividend payments to shareholders.

We normally have 4 meetings a year (in the pub) including an AGM. Maximum time 1.5-2hrs per meeting.

The other Directors are Stuart Gibbs ,Rob Balm, Mike Hellowell, Gary Dew, John Rooke and Graham Searle.

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make A Difference Award

Know someone in Cambridgeshire who deserves a special thank you? ! 🏆

Nominate them for a BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make A Difference Award. Go to the BBC website for category list, terms and privacy notice.

bbc.in/makeadifference

Nominations close Sunday 10 March 2024 at 11:00pm.

You can contact Heather Noble for nominations or more details too!

heather.noble@bbc.co.uk

Notes

New Volunteer Cambs website

A new website has been launched by Support Cambridgeshire, promoting exciting opportunities for residents of Cambridgeshire to explore volunteering near them.

Whether you have 10 minutes to spare or 10 hours, in a few clicks you can be matched with an organisation or group in the community which inspires you to make your mark, expand on the skills you already have, discover new ones, unlock your potential or create lasting friendships with like-minded people.

All you need to do is visit the Volunteer Cambs website at volunteercambs.org.uk, create an account and hey presto! At the click of a button, you can find the ideal cause to support right on your doorstep.

"Volunteering is not just about helping others", say the creators of the new volunteer matchmaking service "it's also about what they'll get in return. This includes a sense of purpose, wonderful experiences, and a whole lot of thanks from the causes they are helping"

To find out how you can match your precious time to local good causes volunteercambs.org.uk. It all starts with one act of kindness.

New hymn books in Horningsea

Would you like to sponsor a new hymn book for Horningsea Church? They will cost just under £12 each. If you would like to sponsor a book please let one of the church wardens know - churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com

Bell Ringing in Horningsea

Until the new bells are in place in Landbeach there will be weekly Bell Ringing practice each Wednesday in Horningsea 19.00 - 20.30. The Landbeach bells are taking their time! So the current arrangements will probably be in place until the end of March.

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.