



Horningsea Herald

Issue #198 May 2025

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

Horningsea VE Day Celebrations

Thursday 8th May 19:00 Village Green.

Are you ready for the Horningsea VE DAY Celebrations?

This year marks 80 years since the end of the second World War and on Thursday 8th May VE (Victory in Europe) Day the beacon will be lit at 19:00 on the Village Green.

All are welcome to join the HRA, have a glass of prosecco, see the beacon being lit and listen to the church bells ringing.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5591>

Ringling for 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Thursday 8th May at 19.00

The church bells will ring out at 19.00 on 8th May to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day when church bells all over the country were rung for the first time in 6 years. You can come and watch, or listen from wherever you are in the Village.

Horningsea Celebrates

80 Years

VE-DAY

7pm
8th May
Village Green

Music
Prosecco
Beacon Lighting

Charity Tea Party for Coeliac Awareness Month

Saturday 17 May, 15.30 to 17.30, Village Hall

There will be a tea party in support of Coeliac UK in the village hall. May is Coeliac Awareness month. All cakes and bakes will be HOME-MADE and gluten-free. Tea, coffee and juices available. Everyone is welcome.

Come and discover how delicious gluten-free baking can be! Hosted by Katherine Restif, Horningsea resident, coeliac and baker

See attached flyer and article on p7.

St Peter's Church

The Trails of Kerala

Saturday 10th May at 19.30 at St Peter's Church :

Lindsay will show pictures and talk about Kerala and the Western Ghat mountains of southern India including the wildlife, the bio diversity hotspots, the people and the culture. The talk has been organised by The Friends of Horningsea Church, entrance is free but you are asked to give a donation.

VE Day Service

Sunday 11th May at 16.00 at St Peter's Church

A special Church Service to commemorate VE Day 80 years ago. No one now living in the village fought in the War but many of our older residents were children and remember life in the village in wartime. Older people had recorded their memories in the booklets produced for the 50th and 60th Anniversaries. These booklets and photographs will be on display. Do come along to commemorate the anniversary - you probably have stories told to you by your parents or grandparents. Come and share them!

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Sunday 11th May at 17.00

Stay on after the service for the annual meeting of the church. At this meeting the churchwardens and Parochial Church Council will be elected, a report is given about the events and services in the last year, the plans for the fabric of the church, repairs that will take place, the church finances and other matters of importance to the church. If you are on the church electoral roll you can vote, if you are not yet on the church electoral roll, but you come to church and care about it, then ask Liz Harrison for a form so you sign up.

An afternoon of science, climate change and faith

Saturday 17th May - 13.30 - 16.30 all afternoon at St Mary's Fen Ditton

An afternoon run by the Faraday Institute for families with half a dozen activities about science, climate change and faith. It should be a fascinating afternoon, so do go along.

Film Show: Pure Clean Water.

Sunday 18th May at 19.00 at St Peter's Church

This award winning film has been made by people in Cambridge concerned about the damage done to our chalk streams and the impact on the Cam. A member of the Friends of the Cam will take part in a Q & A session after the film. If you live on a boat, have a boat - kayak, paddle board- that you use for leisure, if you are one the brave people who swim in the Cam, if you fish or if you just enjoy walking on the towpath, you need to be concerned about the health of the river. Come along and watch the film. This event has been organised by The Friends of Horningsea Church. Entrance is free but you are asked to give a donation. You can reserve a ticket through Eventbrite as set out on the attached flier. Please pass this message on to anyone who might be interested.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pure-clean-water-film-at-st-peters-church-horningsea-tickets-1320092284559>

Rogation Sunday "beating the bounds"

Sunday 25th May

This year the traditional Rogation Day walk, when we "beat the bounds" of the Parish (or at least walk along some of the footpaths!), will start at Fen Ditton Church after the service at 10.30 and take in Biggin Abbey and Honey Hill finishing at the Jubilee Square in Marleigh at 14.00. Take a packed lunch or have something to eat at Salento's.

St Peter's Horningsea Services for May 2025

- **4th May – (3rd Sunday of Easter) 10.30 Holy Communion**
- **11th May – (4th Sunday of Easter)16.00 Village Service (Commemorating VE Day) & Annual Meeting**
- **18th May (5th Sunday of Easter) Faith & Science weekend 10.30 Holy Communion**

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5609>

[The Plough and Fleece - Events for May](#)

The Paint club - Thursday 1st May

Costa Rican Supper club - Weds 7th May

Quiz Night - Weds 21st May

Rock & Roll Bingo - Friday 30th (last Friday of the month)

The May Events flyer is attached.

To make a booking for these please call or email:

bookings@ploughandfleece.co.uk - 01223 860795

[Upcoming Events](#)

HRA Dates for Diary 2025

- Saturday 5th July **Village Day**
- Saturday 13th July **Horticultural Show**
- Saturday 13th September **Apple Pressing**
- Sunday 2nd November **Bonfire Night**
- Sunday 30th November **Christmas Tree Lighting**
- Monday 26th January 2026 **HRA AGM** – 19:00
- Saturday 7th February 2026 **International Evening**
- Saturday 4th July 2026 **Village Day**

Dates are subject to change. Check the village website for updates.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5469>

There's also the Herald calendar:

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

Horningsea CIC AGM

The AGM for the Horningsea CIC will be held on the 24th June, 2025 at 19:00. All investors and residents welcome.

Horningsea CIC is the company behind our community owned pub, The Plough and Fleece.

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

Events at St Peter's Church in the Spring and Summer

Plans are in hand for a series of events in the Church during the next few months – details will be advertised at regular intervals. If you are keen to get involved in any of

them please let one of the Church wardens know –
churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com

Draft programme of events – all to be confirmed!:

- **Saturday 14 June** – New Cambridge Singers Concert
- **Saturday 21 June** – Possible Literary Day and winners of Short Story & Poetry competition
- **Saturday 19 July** – Unveiling of plaque commemorating the USAAF officer who was killed on Horningsea Fen on 19 July 1945; Exhibition of Horningsea in the War; School Reunion

Plaque to commemorate James M Farmer

John Wilson

As you may be aware we intend to place a plaque in the church on the 19th of July to honour James Farmer a pilot in the USAAF who crashed in Horningsea Fen on this day eighty years ago. Two men from the village were in the field at the time and went to his assistance when his parachute failed to open, but he sadly died. James had a distinguished career and received several military honours for his war service.



The plaque has now been commissioned and is now in the process of being made.

Approaches to the HRA Parish Council and village Millennium green trust have been made to cover the cost with good responses. The wooden plaque will be made of very old Brazilian Mahogany, in keeping with present memorials. Contact has been made with living relatives of the family in America who are very moved by our tribute to James. We are currently in contact with the US Air Force for their involvement and also The USAF museum at Duxford who will be represented on the 19th July

There are also other events in the planning for the day by Lindsay in the church.

<https://www.horningsea.net/history-2/the-fallen-of-horningsea>

The Song of the Mass

New Cambridge Singers will be coming to Horningsea on June 14th to give a concert of German Romantic Choral music, entitled The Song of the Mass. See attached flyer.

This will include Rheinberger's acapella Mass for double choir, one of the most beautiful choral works of the 19th century, along with other sublime German Romantic-era choral music by Brahms and Mendelssohn.

Tickets £14, U18s £7 from the Plough and Fleece or at the door

Enquiries 07804 836516 frank.hopkirk.ncs@btinternet.com

N.B. Two Horningsea residents, Helen and Frank, will be singing.

<http://newcambridgesingers.org.uk/>

Horningsea Parish Council

Horningsea Parish Council meetings for 2025

PC meetings are in the village hall and generally from 19:30 but check the agenda published on the [Parish Council website](#) before.

- 21st May
- 30th July
- 24th September
- 26th November.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual Parish meeting was held on 30th April and well attended by residents. The reports submitted for the meeting are available on the PC website as will the minutes when they are published.

<https://www.horningsea-pc.gov.uk/the-council/minutes-agendas/>

Reports

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

HRA Seniors Lunch - report 23rd April 2025

Horningsea seniors enjoyed their annual lunch on Wednesday 23rd April. The HRA hosts this wonderful yearly event and this year 24 over 65's enjoyed a sit down home cooked lunch in the village hall. The wine and conversation flowed and a speech of thanks was given by Richard Pleasants finishing with a toast to the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day



There are many more photos on the village website:

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5594>

[Fen Ditton Community Primary School - news](#)

Term dates

AUTUMN TERM 2024	SPRING TERM 2025	SUMMER TERM 2025
Term Starts – Weds 4 Sept School Ends – Fri 25 Oct Half Term - 28 Oct – 1 Nov School Starts – Tues 5 Nov Term Ends – Fri 20 Dec	Term Starts – Tues 7 Jan School Ends – Fri 14 Feb Half Term - 17 Feb - 21 Feb School Starts – Mon 24 Feb Term Ends – Fri 4 April	Term Starts – Wed 23 April May BH – Mon 5 May School Ends – Friday 23 May Half Term - 26 May – 30 May School Starts – Tues 3 June Term Ends – Wed 23 July

[Horningsea Planning](#)

Save Honey Hill update: Fundraising campaign launched for a Judicial Review

Following the disappointing news that the Secretary of State has approved the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, despite the Planning Inspectors' clear recommendation to refuse the application, SHH has taken legal advice

on the merit of a Judicial Review. Our barrister identified grounds to open a Judicial Review and advised on the first stage.

We launched a fundraising campaign through Crowdfunder. The initial amount was set to cover the cost of this first stage, £3,500. We are very pleased that we smashed through our initial target in just a few days. So thanks to all of you who have donated. This enabled the team to cover the cost of the legal expertise needed to start our Judicial Review journey.

We have now 'stretched' our target in recognition of the legal costs involved with the next stage of the process. Please visit our Crowdfunder page and you will also see the first of what we hope will be many 'Rewards' on offer to spice up the fundraising platform and encourage people to keep on donating to this very worthwhile campaign.

Please make a donation. The more people giving just a fiver or a tenner the better - lots of small donations can turn into a big pot of cash to help take our campaign to the next level!

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-honey-hill-1>

Notes

Bell Ringing in Horningsea Church

Bell Ringing practice will be on the second Wednesday of each month from 19.00 -- 20.30. Email blegallez@yahoo.co.uk and ask Barbara about practice sessions.

Charity Tea Party on 17th May for Coeliac UK - Coeliac Awareness Month May 2025

Katherine Restif

As winter gave way to spring in 2011, I fell ill with a virus, which knocked me off my feet completely for a couple of weeks. So far, so normal. But the exhaustion didn't go away. To my utter mortification, only a few months into an exciting new job at the University of Cambridge, I was so fatigued, I had to reduce my hours, and spend the time when I wasn't working (white with exhaustion) sleeping to regain my energy for the next day at work.

This experience repeated a pattern I had known since I was a teenager, when, after a flu virus, I remained so exhausted that I was regularly falling asleep in class. By the age of 17, my tiredness was so extreme, I dropped an A Level and spent many months at home, being sent work in the post by my teachers, and having weekly supervisions over the phone. My distraught parents took me to see a whole raft of doctors, who mainly pronounced doom and gloom – one of them said I'd never be fit enough to go to university.

I was determined to get to university, and I did. My teachers there were incredibly supportive. The exhaustion continued through my studies, meaning I took an extra year to complete my degree. By pacing myself, and building up my physical strength as

much as I could, I got through, and by the time I started work, I was relatively ok – as long as I didn't get another dreaded virus.

My diagnosis as a teenager was post-viral/chronic fatigue, and when I fell ill in my early thirties in 2011, that's what my GP and I assumed was the case again. But this time, for the first time, in the slew of routine blood tests she ordered, was one for coeliac disease. The result which came back was startling – if I remember correctly, a 'normal' result was under 10, and my result came back as 53. Suddenly, there was another explanation for my tiredness (and my tummy symptoms, including terrible bloating and cramping, which I'd largely ignored). There was also, now, hope that through diagnosis, these symptoms could be managed.

Coeliac disease is a serious auto-immune condition in which your body attacks its own tissues when you eat gluten (found in wheat, barley, rye and some oats). Symptoms can be recurrent, persistent, or unexplained, and may include fatigue, stomach pain, anaemia, nausea, skin rashes and neurological issues such as headaches and brain-fog. There is currently no cure for coeliac disease, but it can be managed by eating a completely gluten-free diet. One in 100 people are affected by it, but currently only 36% of people who have the condition are diagnosed.

My diagnosis was life changing. Once I went on a gluten-free diet, my fatigue quickly lifted, and my tummy issues resolved themselves. By the summer of 2011, I was able to return to work full time and start enjoying life again (that was the summer I met Olivier!). I still take longer to recover from viruses than typical people (such is the joy of having an auto-immune condition) – but I no longer have such dread that I will be facing years of fatigue again each time I catch a virus. In this regard, I know I am fortunate, compared to the many people who are currently battling debilitating chronic fatigue and long-Covid.

This May is the charity Coeliac UK's Coeliac Awareness Month. The information and support provided by Coeliac UK have been invaluable to me since diagnosis: as well of lots of information about coeliac disease, how to manage it, and the research they are funding regarding the disease, they have a snazzy app where you can check thousands to supermarket products to see if they are suitable for coeliacs. They have great gluten-free recipes online, too. In support of their work, I'll be hosting a tea party in the Village Hall on 17 May from 3.30pm-5.30pm. All cash donations for refreshments will go to Coeliac UK. Please join me to enjoy some delicious home-baked gluten-free cakes, and support this great charity!

Finally, if you have symptoms which you are concerned may be coeliac disease, follow the link below to learn more about coeliac disease and take an online assessment:

<https://www.coeliac.org.uk/awareness-month-2025/>

Do you know about David Parr House?

Behind the ordinary front door of 186 Gwydir Street lies an extraordinary hand-painted interior. From 1886, this was the home of Victorian working-class decorative artist David Parr and his family. The house is a remarkable example of Arts and Crafts workmanship, layered with 20th-century social history.

After being taken on as an apprentice, David Parr worked for F. R. Leach & Sons, a firm of artworkmen based on City Road in Cambridge.

The firm was renowned across the country, working with many notable designers of the day, including George Frederick Bodley, William Morris, and Charles Eamer Kempe.

F. R. Leach & Sons specialised in all aspects of church decoration, from wall painting to altar hangings, stained glass to candlesticks. Their work can be found across the UK, from Scotland to the Isle of Wight, and locally in Cambridge at Jesus College, St Botolph's Church, Queens' College, and All Saints' Church.



In 1886, Parr bought 186 Gwydir Street and, over the next 40 years, decorated his terraced home by lamp and candlelight with his own designs, echoing the style of the grand interiors he worked on by day. Following his death in 1927, his granddaughter, Elsie Palmer, came to live in the house and preserved it for over 85 years. In 2014, the David Parr House charity was established, opening the house to the public.

Today, the house welcomes visitors and hosts events, exhibitions, and creative workshops. The charity continues to research Parr's life and the work of F. R. Leach & Sons, uncovering stories from Cambridge's rich artistic heritage.

Want to know more? Get involved by visiting, donating, volunteering, attending events, or spreading the word.

Website: <http://davidparrhouse.org/> Contact: info@davidparrhouse.org



Cam Conservancy statement on Baits Bite and Jesus Lock

The Cam Conservancy issued an update on the closure of the locks on the 3rd April:

<https://www.camconservancy.org/general-5>

"We remain committed to opening Baits Bite Lock as soon as possible. As you can appreciate, with a project of this scale, there are inevitable unforeseen delays. The project is progressing well, and we are currently at the stage of soil testing and awaiting the final designs. It is anticipated that the project will not be completed before August 2025.

For any enquiries, please contact the Clerk to the Conservators of the River Cam: Tracy Yarrow clerk@camconservators.org.uk Mob: 07549 018909"

Why Cambridgeshire should embrace our fruit growing heritage

Cambridgeshire has half the amount of land managed for nature than any other county in England. If we want to be champions of a healthy, biodiversity-rich environment then we need to proactively restore or create habitats that support a range of wildlife species - and when the habitat also produces food and creates new green spaces for the community, it's a win/win/win!

This is why many Cambridgeshire groups are kick-starting a project to revive local orchards across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and we'd value your help with promoting this mission. Attached are three stories that cover the benefits of orchards for Cambridgeshire residents from the angle of biodiversity, community, and our fruit-growing heritage. We'd love you to publish one or all of them to generate interest and showcase the work being done. Accompanying the stories are photographs - if you'd like to know more, receive more photographs or would like to run an interview, you're welcome to contact one of the project partners, Helen Dye from Natural Cambridgeshire.

<https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/>

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.

<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 email “horningseanews@gmail.com”. There is no fee.

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 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.