



Horningsea Village Day

**Horningsea Herald**

Issue #200 July 2025

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)

## Events

### ***Horningsea Village Day***

**Saturday 5th July, Village Green**

Join us on Saturday for a traditional village day full of fun, food and festivities.

#### **What's happening!**

- **15:00** Vee's Teas with homemade cakes.
- **16:00 -16:30** – Back by popular demand [Horningsea Pet Show](#)
- **From 16:00** – Freshly cooked pizzas by **Fired Up Pizza** at the special price of £5.
- [Horningsea Pet show](#) – the return of a village favourite.
- **18.30 – 19:30 & 20.30 – 22:00** – returning to play for us again this year the fabulous band **Tripwire**. Enjoy a dance or chill out and listen to their music, they really are a brilliant band and there'll be music for everyone to enjoy.
- **19:30 – Knobbly knees contest.**
- **Disco** to end the evening, finishing when the last person goes home!



#### **What else is happening**

Coconut shy, Plant stall, Wine/bottle stall, Kids tombola, Hook a duck, Splat a rat, Bouncy castle for the little ones, Inflatable assault course for the more energetic, Beer from the pubs, Tug of war, Display of classic cars and bikes.

So bring the whole family and a picnic if you fancy and enjoy the community spirit. Cash/ small change for the stalls if possible.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5654>

*Horningsea Residents Association (HRA) is a small but very enthusiastic group of villagers who work hard to organise and run numerous events throughout the year. If you fancy knowing more about what they do or if you can spare an hour or two to help at any event please ask.*



## ***Horningsea Village Day Pet Show***

**Saturday 5th July on the Village Green**

*This year's Horningsea Village Day sees the return of the Horningsea Pet Show. Bring your pet for the cutest, the largest, the waggiest tail, the best dressed and more!*

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5685>

## ***The 69th Horticultural show***

**Saturday 12th July, Village Hall**

One of the highlights of the village calendar is the Horticultural Show. The Show Committee completely transform the look of the Village Hall with tables groaning under the weight of all of the exhibits.

TV shows like The Great British Bake off and The Big Allotment Challenge have re-sparked interest in the whimsy of the traditional village show. Our typical entrant now is actually atypical, there are seasoned and newer competitors. There is a good



mix of entrants across the board. The children's classes add more fun and colour and all the children receive something for entering.

This year's show is on Saturday 12th July. The full details are on the Horticultural Show page with entry forms. The schedule has been kindly sponsored by Scotsdales Nursery and Garden Centre Ltd and Spectacular Opticians. As well as on the website schedules have been hand delivered to residents.

This year the entry form has been updated as many classes have been updated and simplified.

If you are nervous or on the fence about entering just have a go... you might surprise yourself. Or at the very least, enjoy a pleasant summer morning and some good natured competition with your fellow villagers.

<https://www.horningsea.net/horningsea-horticultural-show>

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5651>

## ***Plaque to commemorate James M Farmer***

**Saturday 19th July, 14.00 - 16.30 at St Peter's Church Horningsea**

On the 19th July 2025 a plaque will be unveiled in St Peter's Church, Horningsea dedicated to James M Farmer who tragically lost his life in Quy Fen a mile from the centre of the village of Horningsea on 19th July 1945. The plaque has now been made and a suitable plinth will be made out of mahogany so it can join the war memorials in the village church.



The 19th of July will be exactly eighty years since his death. Even though Victory in Europe had been declared on 8th May 1945, the war in the Far East was continuing as VJ Day did not happen until August 1945. There were still a large number of American pilots based in the UK. Captain James Farmer was a distinguished P 51 Pilot with the USAAF based at Duxford on a training flight that day. During his service in the USAAF he had been awarded a number of medals for bravery in action – the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters.

John Wilson has been researching James' life and the circumstances under which his plane crashed. His plane went into a spin and he bailed out, but his parachute failed to open properly. Two men from the village were first on the site by Crooked Drain where they were working, however he died before further help arrived. One elderly lady from Horningsea recalls that his body was brought into the church before it was removed back to the Base.

Pete Crosby has written an account of farm workers who told the story of seeing the ghost of an American pilot standing on the very field where the plane crashed.

John has been in touch with the USAAF museum at Duxford and with the curator Hettie Hearn. With her help he has made contact with James' great niece, Barbara, in the States. She is overjoyed that we are remembering him with this tribute.

John has found photographs of part of the crashed plane and has even found remnants of the plane still buried in the Fen.

He has invited various senior members of the USAF to come on 19th July and hopes that at least one representative will be able to attend, possibly with an Honor Guard. He has made contact with an American wartime reenactment group who hopefully will come and do a demonstration in one of the fields in the village. All being well there will be a flypast of three planes including a Mustang over the village at 15:00 on the afternoon of 19th July.

As a number of the "small boys and girls" who remember the plane going down were pupils at Horningsea School it is a good opportunity to hold the Horningsea School reunion at the same time. If you - or your parents or grandparents - went to Horningsea School then come along to meet up with your old school friends and exchange stories of Horningsea when you were growing up.

Put the date in your diary and make a plan to come along to St Peter's Horningsea between 2pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 19th July for the unveiling of the plaque in memory of James M Farmer, to view an exhibition about him and Horningsea in War Time, to meet up with old school friends, listen to the stories and recollections - and enjoy tea and cakes!

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 been cast and is now in the process of being mounted.*

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 in the church including the School Reunion

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5667>

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

## [St Peter's Church](#)

### *Church Services at St Peters for July*

- Sunday 6th July at 10.30 - Holy Communion
- Sunday 13th July at 16.00 - Village service
- Wednesday 16th July at 20.30 - late evening service of Compline
- 19th July [Commemoration for James M Farmer](#) and School Reunion
- Sunday 20th July at 10.30 - Holy Communion

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/5704>

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

**The Paint club** - Thursday 10th July

**American Supper club** - Saturday 12th July

**Quiz Night** - Weds 17th July

**Rock & Roll Bingo** - Friday 25th (last Friday of the month)

The July Events flyer is attached.

To make a booking for these please call or email:

[bookings@ploughandfleece.co.uk](mailto: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 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.

- 30th July
- 24th September
- 26th November.

## **Fen Ditton Community Primary School - news**

### ***Caretaker Wanted – Join Our Team!***

We're seeking a dependable and proactive Caretaker to maintain our facility's safety, and functionality.

 Location: Cambridgeshire

 Schedule: Part-time

 Responsibilities:

General maintenance & repairs, Opening, closing, and securing school premises, Supporting a safe environment.

Previous experience preferred but not essential – just bring a can-do attitude!

 Apply today at <https://tinyurl.com/zhcybwpa>

### ***Term dates***

<b>AUTUMN TERM 2024</b>	<b>SPRING TERM 2025</b>	<b>SUMMER TERM 2025</b>
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

### New Bus service from 7th July

Urban & Civic are delighted to announce a new bus service. The new bus – the 100 – will link Cambridge Research Park – Waterbeach Sustainable Travel Hub – Waterbeach Village – Waterbeach Rail Station – Horningsea – Fen Ditton – Cambridge City Centre.

The new bus service has been commissioned by Urban&Civic to increase connectivity of the new development and wider community. We have worked with local authorities to ensure that the service aligns with other key transport in the area. Fares start at £2 for adults, £1.50 for under 19s and children under 5 travel for free. The bus service is operated by Central Connect.

The bus will run from 6:00 – 23.30 on a half-hourly peak/hourly off-peak schedule meaning that this new service significantly expands connectivity to Cambridge in the mornings and at night.

Details of timetables, fares and maps can be found here:

<https://waterbeachwb.co.uk/new-bus-service-launched.../>

The new bus service will launch on **Monday 7th July 2025**

This new bus service is part of Urban & Civic’s significant investment and commitment to enabling sustainable travel choices for residents and the wider community.

Any operational queries for the bus should be directed to Central Connect, please contact [hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk) with any other queries.



## Notes

### ***Harmonium in need of a good home!***

Horningsea Church has decided to dispose of the Victorian Harmonium which is in working order - photos attached. If you are interested - or if you know anyone else who might be interested, you can pop into the church which is open most days to try it



out.

Offers please to: [churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com)

### ***In memory of Vee***

The church council has decided to use some of the funds donated in memory of Vee to plant some flowers in the small flower beds in the churchyard - flowers that could be used by the flower arrangers to decorate the church. They will probably include peonies, lavender and snowdrops - all of which had a special resonance for Vee. if you would like to help with the planting -(sometime in the autumn when there has been some rain!) contact Liz Harrison.

If you missed the funeral but would like to see a recording then [Chris Lindley](#) can forward it to you.

## ***Wanted! a volunteer of any age to design a website for St Peter's Church***

This might be a summer holiday project or a project for someone doing DoE ... the church council think it would be a good idea to have a website that gives more information than the "A Church Near Me" website . At the moment someone looking for information about the church, how to arrange a baptism, wedding or funeral, or wanting to know about the services or the history of the church has to dig around. Horningsea.net has a great deal of information, A Church Near Me has some basic info but we think it would be a good idea to have our own website. If you are interested then can you contact the churchwardens, Jennie and Lindsay on churchwardenhorningsea@gmail.com

## ***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](mailto:blegallez@yahoo.co.uk) and ask Barbara about practice sessions.

## ***Cam Conservancy statement on Baits Bite and Jesus Lock***

After starting work on Baits Bite lock the Cam Conservancy paused work after a diving survey and issued a new update on the closure of the locks.

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

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

## ***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.

Articles in the Herald will also generally be posted on the village website [horningsea.net](http://horningsea.net)