



Village Day July 2026



Horningsea Residents Association

HRA Dates for Diary 2026

Here's the event calendar for 2026. As ever please do check the website and social media for details closer to the event. Provisional dates for 2027 are also on the website.

- **Apple Pressing Day** - 19th September 14:00
- **Bonfire Night** - 1st November
- **Christmas Tree Lighting** - Sunday 29th November

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6054>

The 15th Horningsea Apple Pressing day

Saturday September 19th, 14:00, Village Green

Now in its 15th year, this event is organised by Horningsea Residents Association.

Bring your own apples if you have them but if you don't, there are usually plenty spare that have been collected throughout the village.

Help to press and get involved in the juicing, don't forget to bring empty bottler to take your juice home.

Everyone is welcome to join us on the Village Green for a relaxed friendly event full of community spirit, fresh juice and autumn cheer.

Bring your own drinks, nibbles and picnic blanket.

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6144>

[St Peter's Church](#)

The Vikings are coming!

Saturday/Sunday 12th/13th September, Church End Field

Viking raiders ([Grantanbrycg](#)) are coming to Horningsea. They will row up The Cam in their longboat, The Bear, and camp on Church End Field, between the Church and the river. On each day between 10.00 and 18.00 there will be Living History displays - axe throwing, horn carving, eel catching, cooking Viking food, playing Viking board games, weaving, calligraphy ... expect some skirmishes, and during the afternoon the Vikings will "rampage around the church" as they did in the year 870! Details of the programme will be on the village website horningsea.net.

Meanwhile, the longboat will be rowed up and down stream between about 11.00 and 12 noon each day. Best place to see it will be from the tow path (Haling way), Dock Lane, St John's Lane, bottom of Laney Meadow or Church End Field. If you plan to watch the Longboat from your own boat on the river please contact Suzanna Watson so she can monitor the craft and make sure everyone keeps safe (suzanna.watson@mail.com). If you live outside the village please avoid coming by car as there is very limited parking. Catch the C100 bus from Waterbeach or Fen Ditton, or cycle!

You might like to know that the longboat, the Bear, featured in the film "How to train your dragon!"



<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6140>

The Saxon Minster and Viking Raid of 870

Tuesday 15th September at 19.30 at St Peter's Church Horningsea

Three professors will discuss the history of the Saxon Minster at Horningsea and the Viking Raid of 870. Details on the flier and horningsea.net. No entry fee but donations to the church restoration project.

Moderated by Reverend Canon Nick Moir

- Rosalind Love, Elrington & Bosworth Professor of Anglo Saxon
- Rory Naismith, Professor of Early Medieval English History
- Lesley Abrams, Emeritus Professor of Early Medieval History, University of Oxford

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6130>

The Summer of AD 870

Molly Marshall (written in 1994)

One thousand one hundred and twenty four years ago (now 1,156 years!), this summer season, Horningsea underwent one of the most frightening episodes in its long history. We owe so much to the contemporary chroniclers who gave details, if sometimes annoyingly vague, of past events - by which we can catch a glimpse of life as it was, in those distant times. In this case we owe our historical knowledge of this village and this church to the Ely chronicle, known as the Liber Eliensis - the Book of Ely. From this book we learn that in Horningsea in the 9th century there was a monastery under Royal Patronage, with a sizeable community of Monks. "Not a small community of clergy" is the exact translation from the Ely Chronicle. How many? 15 -20? Perhaps more? But the text goes on to tell us that " the name of the priest-in-charge was Cenwold". The Minster - a church both of a monastery and a parish stood on _this spot, surrounded by the numerous monastic buildings. The actual village settlements was near where nowadays Eye Hall stands. All traffic came by river - the Dock was the arrival point for all visitors.

At this time Danish warriors frequently crossed the North Sea in their Longboats during the summer months, looting, burning and spreading terror and devastation, down all the eastern side of Britain. The City of York fell to the Viking invaders in 867.

According to the Ely Chronicle in the year 870 it was to our area of East Anglia that they came sailing over the sea and rowing up the river. Any settlement on a riverside site must have known of this ever-recurring danger - as indeed Cenwold and his fellow clergy must have realised - perhaps they hid some of the church's best silver and gold "ornamenta", the collective name for Church plate.

Anyhow - perhaps it came to pass in the following manner:

One warm, dark summer night in that year 870 disastrous for so many religious establishments throughout Anglo-Saxon Britain. The first noticeable sound would have been the splash of so many oars approaching the Dock - then the Longboats drew in towards the landing stage - landing planks pushed out from the decks, to enable the crews of perhaps 50 - 70 warriors to creep ashore, battle axes, swords and short throwing lances were handed out from the arm's chest.

At a sign of command from their chieftain, they advanced in silence up the slope towards the monastic buildings and the church - lighted torches were then handed out - and then the leader, yelling blood chilling Norse battle cries, burst into the dim cool church. Shouts and blows and clashing of axes and swords rang out, as the looters hacked open chests, tore down altar-hangings and richly gilded lamps - herding all their booty onto the rush strewn floor ready to bear off to their Longboats.

Once they reached these boats there were their big cauldrons ready to cook feasts of stolen ox or sheep - big leather bags to fill with gold and silver objects - and big casks of ale to complete requirements for a festive triumphant barbecue. They might even have danced their famous Norse sword dance - with a singer chanting verses to celebrate victory!

This however you must realise is just a possible incident - what the chronicle does tell us is that "some of the pagans did then accept Christianity and were baptised"!

Again no information as to how many of them and when this commendable conversion came to pass! Did Cenwold the priest instruct and baptise these Danish Vikings in the old church once standing on this spot, or what was left of it after the visitors of 870?

All the chronicle goes on to tell us is that these Danes _gave _the monastery of Horningsea 7 hydes of land, two of these hydes were for the village of Eye. The Hyde was in size 240 acres, so the community's share of 5 hydes was a gift of 1200 acres! Gratitude to God and the monks for their conversion? Or a deep feeling of guilt?

Whatever their intention at that time, in the end those hydes caused so much strife and trouble, involving the monks and villagers, Abbots, Bishops, even the military - indirectly probably causing the final extinction 100 years later of the Monastery of St Peter, Horningsea - leaving for the future just a beautiful parish church!

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6134>

Community survey for the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant

Jennie & Lindsay, Church wardens

As the Heritage Lottery Fund have made a grant of £100,000 towards the repairs in the church, they have asked that a Community Survey should be carried out to gain an understand of the impact the project has on the community. You can access the survey using the URL below or by filling in a paper copy which you will find in the church

porch. Please have a go at filling it in - the more information they have the better, the closing date is 30th September.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DGD3DL>

The Plough and Fleece

Garden Party & Beer Festival - 1st August

Who's ready for our FIRST EVER Garden Party & Beer Festival?!

It's going to be an unforgettable day, and we'd love for you to join us at the **Plough & Fleece Garden Party & Beer Festival** on Saturday, 1st August!

There's something for everyone to enjoy, including:

 Local stalls

 Bouncy castle

 Face painting

 Beer Festival

 Live music

✨ And plenty more!

 Save the date, gather your friends and family, and come along for a fantastic day of great food, drinks, entertainment, and community fun.

 Interested in having a stall? Get in touch with us—we'd love to have you involved!

We can't wait to celebrate with you! ❤️

Beer Festival

The beer festival kicks off on Wednesday 29th July! 🎉

Come along and enjoy a fantastic selection of real ales and ciders, including beers from some of our brilliant local breweries. We're proud to support local producers and showcase some of the best beers our region has to offer. 🍺

Whether you're a cask ale enthusiast or just fancy trying something new, there's something for everyone.

Come down, support local breweries, and see what's pouring! We can't wait to welcome you.

For booking: 01223 860795 - ploughandfleece26@outlook.com

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

Events

Park Yoga

Park yoga will be running 9.30 on the village green every Saturday during the summer, weather permitting, until September. Led by Johanna from Waterbeach. More info at:

<https://bookwhen.com/sasyana>

Reports

Horningsea Village Day - Report

Catherine Morris

Like a fine wine, it could be said that Horningsea Village Day gets better and better. Against the backdrop of a beautiful summer's day and a parched but bucolic village green, Horningsea's Residents' Association sprang into action yet again this year with the obligatory bouncy castles, coconut shy, old bangers and Vee's Teas. Always a well-attended event, young and old turned out to enjoy this very jovial and easy-going event where a couple of barrels from our ever-supportive local pubs or a cuppa and cake helped to grease the wheels and ease everyone into a thoroughly entertaining afternoon and evening.

The 4th July country-themed music provided by a number of local acts culminated in an excellent display of line-dancing noted by some to be more popular amongst the ladies of the village than the men. It did require a good deal of concentration and maybe the barrels of beer were to blame for that! The rich cultural tapestry of our village was represented further by one of the Horningsea art groups which displayed some examples of their work for the first time prompting many to comment on what a rich, diverse and talented community we live in.





Finally, congratulations to Anna who won this year's Knobbly Knee Competition as judged by Sebby, and congratulations to the Residents' Association (HRA) and all those who helped make this yet another very successful village event!



More photos and line dancing videos are on the village website

<https://www.horningsea.net/archives/6155>

August 2026 Calendar

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Beer festival</i>	Starts Weds 29th July	<i>The Plough and Fleece</i>
<i>Garden Party</i>	Saturday 1st August	<i>The Plough and Fleece</i>
<i>Park Yoga</i>	9:30 Saturday	<i>Village Green</i>
<u>Advance Events</u>		
<i>The Vikings are coming</i>	12th/13th September	<i>The River</i>
<i>The 15th Horningsea Apple Pressing day</i>	19th September	<i>Village Green</i>

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 may also be posted on the village website horningsea.net