



**HORNING**

# HORNING REACH

## The PARISH PAPER



**ASHMANHAUGH**

For Horning and Ashmanhaugh

(Associated with the NIB magazine)

Happy New Year



**A strange new species of caterpillar visited in the snow**  
Photo courtesy of Gail Watling

February 2026 No. 574

## HORNING REACH

Editor: Mike Harris 07585 412871  
[hr-editor@outlook.com](mailto:hr-editor@outlook.com)

DEADLINE FOR MARCH REACH – 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

Contributions welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to amend, copy or omit unsuitable articles at his discretion. No responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions, although the Editor does his best to ensure that the information printed is correct. Views expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily those of the Horning Reach.

**We are looking for a new editor of The Reach to take over in April.  
Please see page 8 and contact me if interested.**

### The art of good listening

Really good listening is a skill that takes all of us a significant amount of time to practice and develop. Good listening is often described as a form or art; and just as an artist will take many years to hone and refine their skills, the same can also be said for a good listener.

Jesus was a good listener.

The bible records relatively few words spoken by Jesus. Christ would often instead listen to people, discern the situation, and then share his wisdom.

It is often a challenge for us to become good listeners as we have to push back on our own needs, and instead, be present and in the moment to support the person who is talking to us. However, good listening is a wonderful skill, and one that if we can grow and develop, will allow our own lives, and also the lives of the people around us to improve and flourish.

At the core, good listening requires us to be selfless; to put someone else's needs before our own.

Good listening means giving someone else our full attention, and we can all instinctively and immediately tell if someone is giving us that. There can be very obvious clues they there are not, such as if the other person is looking at their phone whilst we are trying to talk to them. To the more subtle, but still identifiable clues, such as how the other person responds to us; typically with single word answers which indicate that they are not really engaging with the conversation.

Another challenge that we have to navigate to become a good listener is the temptation to take over the conversation. The more we talk, the less we hear.

Sometimes it can be really hard to give another person our full attention and to be a good listener. We might have other things that we need to do, jobs to complete, places to go; we can all feel the stresses of time commitments and deadlines. However, being a good listener for someone who really needs to talk will almost certainly be our number one priority, other tasks can normally wait.

I have a personal rule where I try at all costs never to use the word 'busy' to describe how my day or my week is going. When someone thinks a person is 'busy' they then almost apologise for requesting a small piece of your time. Listening to people, supporting people, being there for people when they are in need, is far more important than our day-to-day chores which we often mistakenly feel are essential and vital, when in fact they can often easily be delayed.

Life is always about priorities; and being a good listener to those around us is surely one of our top priorities.

Praised be Christ,

Revd Ben

## Rotas For February

Date		Time	Service	Church
1 <sup>st</sup> February	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	9.30 am	Benefice HC <i>With Sunday Club</i>	Neatishead
8 <sup>th</sup> February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	9.30 am	Benefice HC	Ashmanhaugh
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday next before Lent	9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	HC (BCP) HC <i>Sunday Club</i> Evening Prayer	Irstead Horning Neatishead Barton Turf
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday	10.00 am 7.00 pm	HC with Ashing HC with Ashing	Ashmanhaugh Horning
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	9.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am	MP HC HC	Horning Irstead Barton Turf

Warden's meeting with Ben on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – will advise asap

HC Holy Communion EP Evening Prayer BPC Book of Common Prayer

MP Morning Prayer BHC Benefice Holy Communion

N.B. Please note due to bell works this service is likely to take place in another church in the Benefice.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Neatishead 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday HC</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Irstead</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Horning</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Barton Turf</b>
<b>Friday * 9.45am</b>	<b>Ashmanhaugh</b>

**Weekday Morning Prayer Service in our Benefice churches at 9.15am \***

## Lent Group 2026

Please do join us for our Lent bible study group, starting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at the New Victory Hall. Refreshments will be available from 1pm, with each session starting at 1.30pm, and concluding at 2.30pm.

Over six weeks we will explore and investigate one of the most fascinating books of the bible- The Acts of the Apostles. Please do come along! Lent groups are wonderful ways for all of us to come together for an informal chat and friendly discussions as we learn new and interesting things.

There is no cost or any need to sign up, simply come along!

Each session will be different, therefore, please feel free to come along to as many as you are able to.

Revd Ben.

## Latest news from our Sunday Club

2025 concluded with our much-loved Christmas Eve Crib service at Irstead. It was wonderful to welcome so many families and it was fantastic to have over 100 people in church getting into the Christmas spirit. We had lots of fun singing carols and listening to the Christmas story. If you have not previously been before, do consider coming next Christmas, it is the perfect way to start the festivities.

Our Sunday Club meetings this term will focus on the miracles that Jesus performed; last month we started off our theme by thinking about how Jesus was able to turn water into wine.

## Upcoming Dates and Events

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February- 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February- 11am Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March- 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March- SUNDAY CLUB ON THE ROAD! Please save the date as we have exciting plans for a day out! More details to follow.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March- 11am Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30am Palm Sunday walk from the New Victory Hall to Barton Turf church with real donkeys!

ALL CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME TO SUNDAY CLUB, PLEASE DO COME ALONG, IT IS GREAT FUN!

Parents are welcome to stay or they can collect their children at the end of the club.

For more information please contact Revd Ben- [brother\\_ben@btinternet.com](mailto:brother_ben@btinternet.com) 01692 630216

### Charity Lunches in Lent

Each year in the run up to Easter, Horning Church organises a series of six soup and sandwich lunches in aid of different charities. The lunches are held on Fridays from 12 noon to 1.15 at St Benet's Hall, Horning and anyone is most welcome.

We eat and chat together before a representative from the days' charity shares something about their work. There is no charge but we invite people to make a cash donation.

The six charities we are supporting are as follows:

February 20th - Barnabas Aid which works with churches across the world

February 27th - Enterprise - a small charity which brings disadvantaged young people from Birmingham to the Broads to have a holiday sailing the Hunter boats

March 6th - Nancy Oldfield Trust, Neatishead

March 13th - Big C Norfolk Cancer which supports people going through treatment

March 20th - CAP ( Christians Against Poverty). This charity helps people in debt by offering counselling and money management courses

March 27th - Norwich Foodbank plus Easter Egg collection

Come to one, come to them all.

Caroline and Ian Johnson

## First Saturday Monthly Coffee Mornings

The Christmas Coffee Morning on 6<sup>th</sup> December raised £668.27 – a wonderful total. Thank you for everyone's work, support and generosity.

And the 3<sup>rd</sup> January Coffee Morning raised £135, which was a remarkable total as that morning the snow fell heavily in Horning which we thought might deter people from coming, as the pavements and roads were icy, too. But no, nearly 40 intrepid adventurers braved the conditions and supported us. Thank you.

The February Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00 – 11.45 ish in Horning Village Hall. The coffee mornings are organised by church members but are open to everyone, so please invite neighbours, friends and visitors to come along. We are very grateful for the amounts raised each month, which go towards ensuring that our churchyard is well maintained and presented. But the main reason for the Coffee Mornings is that they provide the opportunity for people to gather together and to meet old friends and to begin to make new ones. And because we are in the Hall there is also sufficient space for those who like to bring their dogs, too. Everyone is welcome! Do come.

## Carols on the Green

A big thank you to everyone who attended and your generosity in supporting the work of East Anglia Air Ambulance. £165.30 was raised. And a big thank you, too, to Chris and the team who once again ensured we had a beautiful tree as the centrepiece of our gathering, and for the enthusiastic and tuneful singing of everyone who came.

## Horning Carol Service

Once again Horning Church was filled as we celebrated Christmas with our traditional carol service. The church was warm, the flowers and candles beautifully arranged, the refreshments well received, and the choir led the service so well. A big thank you to them for all their hard work, to Roger the organist, to all of our memorable readers and to our Vicar, Ben, reminding us that there is so much more to Christmas than "The Big Shop!" The retiring collection was for Hemsby Inshore Rescue Service, and raised £286.78. Thank you to everyone who generously supported this.

### Thankyou

I would like to say thank you to my friends for their support and help during the short illness of my brother Terry Sendal. Sadly, he passed away in hospital on the 20<sup>th</sup> December aged 83 years, beloved uncle of Stuart, Danny and Matthew.

Jenny Gibbs

## HORNING REACH The PARISH PAPER

After two enjoyable years editing the Horning Reach, I have decided to call it a day. **We are, therefore looking for a new editor**, or editorial team, to take over from April.

I have found the experience very rewarding and having made several changes to The Reach feel that a new editor with fresh ideas could enhance it further.

Please ask yourself if you could take over, no previous experience is necessary, and continue to provide a valuable service to the community. I will support you as necessary during the changeover.

Contact Mike on 07585 412871 or [hr-editor@outlook.com](mailto:hr-editor@outlook.com)

### Neatishead, Barton Turf and District WI

By the time you read this our wonderful Christmas events will be well over but I'd still like to mention what a wonderful Christmas lunch we had at How Hill with Dale Bullimore entertaining. We also supported the Priscilla Bacon hospice by providing drinks for both residents and visitors and presents beautifully wrapped by our members.

We are looking forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm. Our Carousel theatre trip is coming up in February and the committee are formulating plans for more social events. Our meetings continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the NVH. Whatever the weather outside, you will always get a warm welcome from our members. To contact us for more information please email [neatisheadwi@gmail.com](mailto:neatisheadwi@gmail.com)

Sally Church

President

WROXHAM AND HOVETON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
114 Norwich Road, Wroxham, NR12 8SA

**Minister: Rev Tina Wilson. email address: [revtinawilson@outlook.com](mailto:revtinawilson@outlook.com).**

**Tel :07763 354 740.**

Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835. [lmhoward100@btinternet.com](mailto:lmhoward100@btinternet.com)

Please see our website for the most up to date information. ([wroxhamurc.org.uk](http://wroxhamurc.org.uk))  
Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Paul Whittle,  
including Holy Communion.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February. 10.30am: Service conducted Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl.  
There is no 4pm Service this month.

The Community Café meets for coffee and cakes from 10.30am to 12 noon on  
Thursdays. All are welcome, there is no charge.

We look forward to seeing friends old and new.

**Please note we are unable to answer queries about Barclays Bank**

### Horning Flower Club

The Committee treated the members to a wonderful Christmas Tea at the December meeting, following a flower demonstration depicting “Christmas Sparkle” with Jacqui Aldous. The competition, also Christmas Sparkle, was won jointly by Doreen Dean, Bridget Hedge and Rachel Clayton.

At the January meeting members competed in a Quiz with questions taken from flowers, shrubs, and the world of gardening. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, with an accompanying glass of Prosecco to toast the future of the club which has been meeting for well over 60 years.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, with 10 meetings a year, and new members are always welcome. Contact the Secretary Carole if you are interested. Contact telephone number 01692 536270.

Are you Horning born and bred?    Been here a while?

New to the area and wish you knew more about the history of this lovely village?

HORNING HUB presents.....

# MEMORIES OF HORNING

at HORNING VILLAGE HALL on

SAT. 14TH MARCH

11AM - 3PM

If you have memories or stories that have been handed down through the family or you have photos or documents you would like to share -

please do contact the Horning Hub .

Contact 01692 630695 or [horninghub@yahoo.com](mailto:horninghub@yahoo.com)

## Preston Rooms

Hello again

Firstly I must thank everyone who attended the Christmas Get Together after the Carol Service last December. We honestly don't think that we have ever seen the Hall so packed and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying a glass of Steve's mulled wine and a mince pie. It just proves how many people use the Preston Rooms.

The one big job we do have planned is a change around in the car park to allow more parking spaces and also make actual parking a little easier.

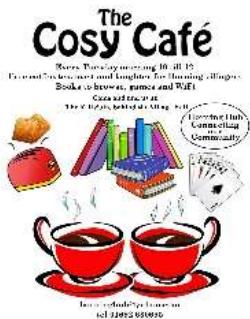
I'm sure that you will all continue to support the Tuesday Cafe, a great place to have a good cuppa and a treat, but most of all at this wintry time of year, it's a great place to meet up and have a chat.

February marks the launch of the Deaf and Signing Cafe, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 12pm. It is hoped to be an inclusive and welcoming event, offering a space for the deaf community, sign language users, learners and supporters. There will of course, also be coffee and cake.

Sue Watts, Secretary



## Horning Hub - connecting the community



**Our busy cosy café**, in the village hall Mill Suite, continues weekly on a Tuesday. You are welcome to join us between 10-12 when you will receive a warm welcome, hot drinks and toast. There will be the occasional talk, monthly IT sessions and a chance to browse through books and puzzles. Last year the Cosy Café ended on a high note when we enjoyed Christmas treats, bingo organised by Ralph and Julie, and a free raffle. It was also a chance to say thank you to Susie and her team for time spent putting the show on the road every week.



**Once a month** we will welcome Holli, the IT coach to the Cosy Café. **IT sessions** are held on Tuesdays from 10.30 on **20<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 24<sup>th</sup> March 7<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

*PS If Tuesdays don't suit you then let's talk about the possibilities of another day of the week*

**The Supper and Lunch Club is at the planning stage for 2026:** Last year the Staithe and Willow provided us with an amazing Christmas Lunch in December. We were pleased to raise a glass and congratulate Debbie and Diccon on their first year in Horning at the same time as thanking Kim and Jason for organising the event.

*It is never too late to become a Friend of the Hub and join us on one of our foodie outings.*



Meanwhile the **Hub Singers** will be meeting once a month on a Wednesday between 4-5p.m., **11 Feb and 11<sup>th</sup> March** – further dates to be arranged.



**Further Dates for your Diary 2026** Currently the Horning Hub Team (Committee) is working on their programme for the year and plan to include

**Memories of Old Horning on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> March.** Susan Tubby will be bringing along a wealth of material collected by her father. We plan to add Paul Gilden's collection of fascinating photographs which he has been recently sharing on Horning Facebook. St Benedicts church has agreed to bring along old OS maps. If **you** have any photos

or memories of old Horning, you would like to share then do get in touch with us. Contact details below

**Easter Egg** trail over the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> April with a prize of £25 (p.s. Hunt the Hound Christmas trail was won by a delighted Lewis!)



**On May 2<sup>nd</sup>** we will be taking part in the **Horning Boat Show** – tombola prizes welcome!



**21st June (TBC) - Friends Tea party** in the Mill Sute



**Saturday 15 August** You are welcome to join us for **A Community Gathering** - bring a picnic and listen to music on St Benet's Green

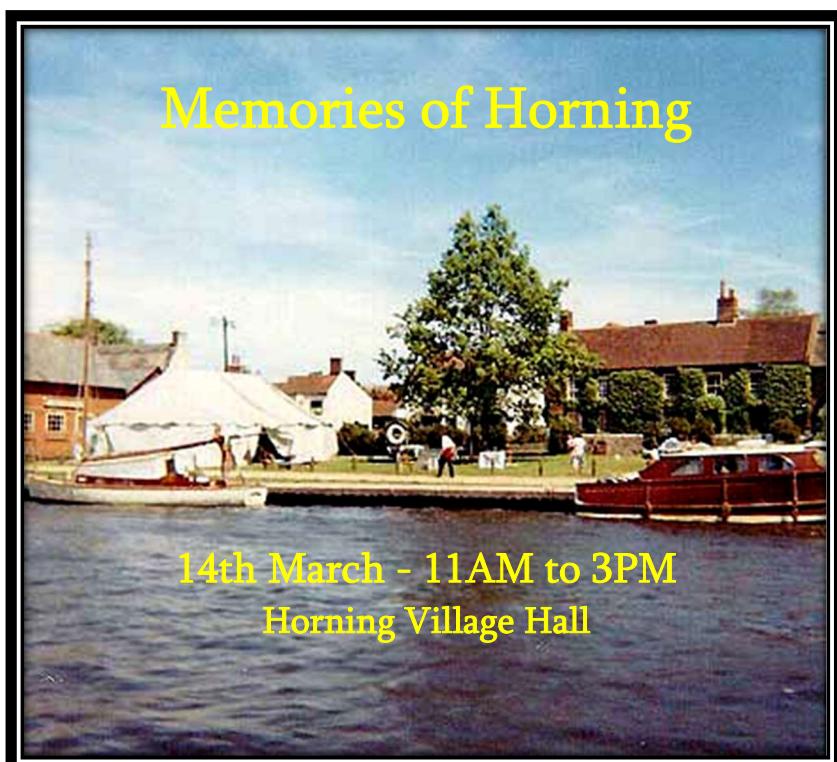
And on

**21<sup>st</sup> November Horning Hub Christmas Event**



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Morag for designing our Christmas Grotto last year and all the Horning Makers and entertainers for taking part in such a fun event

Contact: 01692 630695 or [hornnghub@yahoo.com](mailto:hornnghub@yahoo.com)



# Horning Parish Council News

## Anti-social behaviour

The police are aware that there is some anti social behaviour including vandalism and verbal abuse occurring in the village. If you are verbally abused or see anti-social behaviour in the village please report it to the police who will be able to act on the complaints and are aware of the group responsible.

[Report ASB](#) on the Norfolk Police website, or telephone 101

## Useful contacts:

North Norfolk District Council – [link here](#) or telephone 01263513811

- Beaches
- Car Parks
- Environmental Protection (abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, reporting nuisances, reporting littering, reporting dog fouling, assistance with pests)
- Benefits
- Council Tax
- Housing
- Bins, waste, recycling
- Country parks and sports facilities
- Planning (this is also the responsibility of the Broads Authority depending on location)

Norfolk County Council – [link here](#) or telephone 03448008020

- Adult social services
- Children's services
- Infrastructure services including Highways, transport and property. (To report a fault on the highway use this link:  
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39652/Report-a-highways-problem>)
- Communities and Environment (libraries, Active Norfolk, Museums)
- Norfolk Fire and Rescue

## Thanks to the Christmas Tree Committee

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who gave their time and financial contribution to the wonderful Christmas Tree on the Village Green.

## Anglia in Bloom competition

If any parishioners would be interested in becoming involved in this, with the support of the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk

## Precept

Horning Parish Council has opted to keep the precept as low as possible for the forthcoming financial year, despite significant increases in costs beyond its control, including rising insurance premiums, higher national insurance contributions, and general inflation. The increase for 2025/26 will be less than £5 per year for a Band D household—amounting to a total rise of only £6 over the past three years. Throughout this period, the Parish Council has continued to provide all its usual services, from maintaining public spaces and supporting community facilities to ensuring local issues are heard and addressed. Parish councils increasingly shoulder more responsibilities as district and county councils face ongoing financial pressures and organisational challenges, and Horning Parish Council remains committed to working hard on behalf of parishioners to support the village and protect the services that matter most.

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
Jo Beardshaw

**E-mail:** [clerk@horningparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@horningparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
**Parish Council Website:** [Horning.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://Horning.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

Could you help by becoming a volunteer community driver?

Voluntary Community Care, which is a registered charity serving Horning, Hoveton, Ashmanhaugh, Neatishead, Wroxham and Salhouse etc, has volunteer drivers taking people to the surgery in Hoveton but also to hospitals, dentists and opticians.

Do you own and drive a car, have a mobile phone and enjoy meeting people? We are very short of drivers and would be delighted if you could come and join us. It does not require a huge time commitment, perhaps a couple of hours a week at your convenience. You will be reimbursed for fuel costs and know that you have started 2026 doing something really worthwhile and in great demand in this community.

PLEASE make this your New Year resolution and contact 01603 784455 or email [wroxhamhovetonvmt@gmail.com](mailto:wroxhamhovetonvmt@gmail.com)

Interested in **ART-DRAWING&PAINTING or CHESS** coaching?

Personal lessons online or in your own home.

Contact: Kevin on 07528 811219 or [kevinmoore758@icloud.com](mailto:kevinmoore758@icloud.com)



## Horning Hub Community IT support at the Hub Cosy Café

**Are you struggling to come to terms with IT?**

- Anxious about your lack of skills and understanding?
- You've lost trust in the internet?
- Your equipment is out of date
- You would like to know more about using a mobile phone or a Tablet?
- Need help with your laptop?

***then why not join us at the Horning Hub Cosy Café on a Tuesday for advice and support from Holli the Community Tech coach?***

**IT sessions for 2026 will be held on Tuesdays from 10.30 on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 24th February, 24<sup>th</sup> March 7<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

***PS If Tuesdays don't suit you then let's talk about the possibilities of another day of the week***

- Being tech-savvy can significantly enhance daily life
- Our Digital Skills sessions aim to support you to develop your skills, safely and with confidence.
- There are no set lesson plans. You can pick your own topics depending on what you would like to learn about. These topics can be repeated as many times as needed.

***Come and 'give it a go' to see whether it's right for you and find ways in which digital can make day-to-day life easier and more enjoyable.***

***Tel 01692 630695 or email: [horninghub@yahoo.com](mailto:horninghub@yahoo.com)***

### 300 club winners:

#### December Draw

£25 - 135, Mrs Josephine Munro  
£15 - 81, Mr Jonnie Walker  
£10 - Mrs Glenny McAndie

#### Christmas Draw

£100.00 - 147, Mrs Janet Briscoe  
Hamper - 232, Mrs Cath Winspear  
Sherry - 130, Mr Peter Boshier  
Chocolates - 8, Mr Graham McEwen

## News round-up from Horning Primary School

The weeks leading up to Christmas last year saw Horning Primary School pupils and staff involved in a number of community activities.

The Christmas Café event was staged in Horning Village Hall on 1 December when the children welcomed family, friends and members of the local community to the highly festive café. Dressed in smart aprons, the children took the orders at the Café's tables, served the visitors with drinks, delicious cakes and savouries, gave change and helped to create a lovely atmosphere to a background of seasonal music. With a raffle of many kindly donated prizes, the event raised an amazing £765 for school funds which will be used for projects which benefit all of the School's pupils.

On 10 December the whole school walked to St Benet's Church for the annual Christingle Service, where they were joined by many of the children's family members. The service began with the lighting of the Advent wreath candles by two of the pupils; this was followed by the children

assembling their own candles. The Christingle candles were then lit, and while a somewhat stressful interlude for the adults, the children enjoyed this part of the service immensely!

In the next issue of Horning Reach, Horning Primary School looks forward to reporting on the Parents/Children Maths and Science Reading Café (15 January) and the visit of North Norfolk MP Steffan Aquarone to the School in early February 2026.



*Christingle Service for Horning Primary School pupils*



*Horning Primary School children celebrating the success of their Christmas Café*

## Horning Village Hall

Did you know Horning Village Hall is a charity (No 303984) and is managed by a group of Trustees whose job it is to care for the building and ensure villagers can use the facilities in various ways?

Over the years many of the basic maintenance jobs have been undertaken by the trustees themselves. However, we are not getting any younger! So we (the trustees) are looking for a group of people who are willing to help with basic maintenance, i.e. fixing locks, putting up shelves, painting, basic electrics, plumbing etc

The good news is you don't have to be a trustee or come to our monthly meetings but would occasionally use your skills to help with village hall maintenance. Each time we have to call in a trade, it takes money from the village hall funds which we would rather put towards improvements. If you are able to help please contact Christine Charles at [christinecharles170@gmail.com](mailto:christinecharles170@gmail.com) who will put your name on the list of HVHV (Horning Village Hall Volunteers) .

Many hands do light work make --- and we will even give you tea and cake and occasionally the odd bacon butty!

### **IT Help Needed**

We are also looking for help with our online image to jazz up our profile, help with posters, website, social media etc. This is something you can do mainly from home—again you do not have to be a Trustee or attend monthly meetings. Thanks in advance. Please contact Julie on [quaggyduck@gmail.com](mailto:quaggyduck@gmail.com) or Christine contact as above

### **Bingo**

Our Bingo sessions are held once a month in the Mill Suite--They are going from strength to strength. The next one will be on 28th January 2026 and are held regularly on the last Wednesday of each month.

Doors open at 7pm ---10 games for £5

With Ralph as our caller, you know it's going to be fun.

### **HORNING CINEMA**

.....

Unfortunately, where once the film night was well attended, over the last few months, despite our efforts to show different types of films, attendance is still poor. Where are we going wrong? What do you want to see at your Cinema?

We know that you can see all these films on TV/Netflix etc from the comfort of your own home-but the point is that by coming to the Horning Cinema, viewing on the "big screen" is a different experience and, more importantly, you can meet up and have a chat with your neighbours. It costs us a licence fee for each

showing and if we do not get enough people attending, it costs us money. In recent months, attendance has been very poor, sometimes in spite of some quite outstanding films. If this does not change, we shall have to reconsider the future of the cinema. It is the old adage, "Use it or lose it!"

The Horning Cinema 2026 new season starts on Friday February 13th with the film "UNSTOPPABLE" (2010) Certificate 12A. Running time 98 minutes.

Based on a real incident and starring Rosario Dawson, Chris Pine, Mimi Rogers and Denzel Washington.

With an unmanned runaway train carrying toxic chemicals about to derail near a medium-sized town, a brave engineer and his conductor give chase in a locomotive and stop the train in the nick of time.

Doors open 7p.m. for 7.30 start. Tickets: Adult £5, accompanied child (16 and under) £1. On sale (and reservations) at Tidings Newsagents (Tel: 01692 630956) Admission by ticket only. Seating is governed by our compliance with current Health & Safety and Fire Regulations. **BOOK EARLY!**

Friday 6th March: "INDECENT PROPOSAL" (1993) Certificate 15. Running time 117 minutes.

Horning Cinema is held in Horning Village Hall (NR12 8LF)

[www.horningvillagehall.org](http://www.horningvillagehall.org)

### **300 Club**

To raise money for the village hall you can buy a number, (there are 300 in total) £10 for the year.

3 prizes each month £ 50, £30 and £20.

Twice a year prize of £100 as well.

To find out more contact Julie Thomson 01 692 630 118 or email

[300club@horningvillagehall.org](mailto:300club@horningvillagehall.org)

It really could be you!                    You've got to be in it to win it.

### **Other news.....**

There is a hole in the village hall roof! It is only a small one but it is still a hole. As we have reported previously the ridge of the hall roof is in relatively poor condition while the remainder of the roof is satisfactory but will benefit from a clean. At the moment, we are collecting our estimates for the remedial work.

Also, the front entrance of the village hall is looking very scruffy. There is significant rot in some of the cladding timbers and the generally untidy appearance of the upper windows does not help. Since the upper windows at the front of the village hall do not serve any useful purpose (they are

permanently blacked out), it is proposed to cover these in white plastic with substantial insulation behind. The present name board will be replaced with a raised one suitably illuminated. We also propose redecorating the front of the hall and if funds run to it, double glazing to avoid the problems of condensation presently experienced.

Lastly we are looking at the ventilation of the main hall. This will be a significant project; at the moment, the trustees are conducting a research exercise to find out what is reasonably practicable and possible at a cost that we are likely to be able to afford.

To help fund this work, we are proposing a fund-raising event towards the end of June. We need your support, so please watch this space.....

JT/DCE

## Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat

The winter months are generally quieter at the lifeboat station, giving us valuable time to carry out our annual maintenance checks and ensure all our equipment is in top condition for the year ahead. Although the beaches are quieter at this time of year, there's still plenty happening behind the scenes. Our volunteer crew continue to train throughout the season, both at sea and in the classroom, keeping their skills sharp whatever the weather. Winter conditions can be unpredictable, so this period is especially important for practising launch procedures and working safely in colder, rougher seas. Our crew have also been busy preparing for the busier and hopefully warmer, months to come. It's a real team effort, and the dedication shown across the station is something we're incredibly proud of.

Although we hope for a peaceful start to the year, the team remains ready to respond at a moment's notice. As always, we're incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community, which enables us to maintain an independent lifeboat service here in Sea Palling. Your donations, make all the difference.

Rita Galbraith  
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat  
Fundraising Team      Registered Charity No. 2672





## Coming Soon: Top Girls by Caryl Churchill

NABS' excellent, recent productions (Pygmalion / Cabaret in 2024 and Cinderella and Blood Brothers in 2025) have set a high bar for our local, Neatishead-based theatre group.

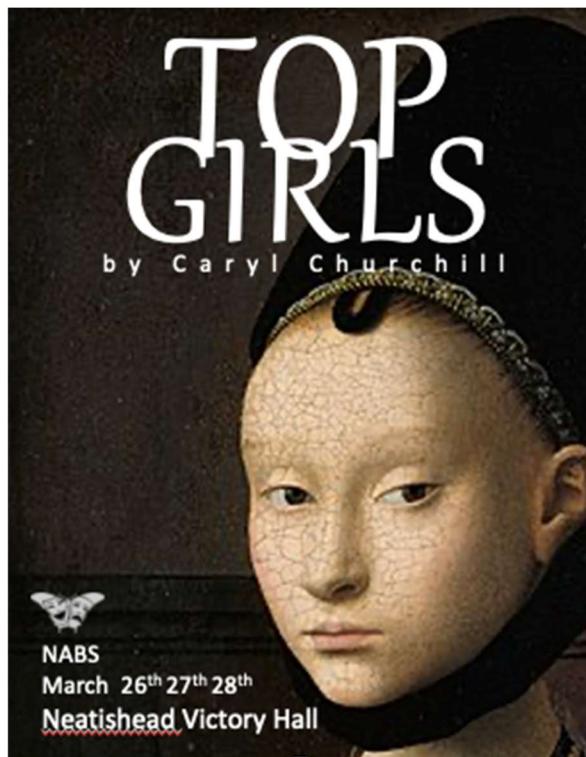
For 2026, director Shelagh Smith has chosen a pioneering and challenging play for a female-only cast: Top Girls by Caryl Churchill. First performed in 1982 at the Royal Court, critics have named it 'the best British play from a woman writer.'

Now performed all over the world, 'Top Girls is one of the great plays of the 20th century, filled with big ideas, sharp wit and searing heart; it's very funny, and ultimately very moving.' (Kip Williams, artistic director, Sydney Theatre Company). The title, Top Girls, refers to a women's employment agency and is set a few years into Margaret Thatcher's premiership. The play considers women entering a man's world, both historically and in the early 1980s and is full of fast and often overlapping dialogue.

Intrigued? Why not pencil in the performance dates in your diaries? There will be publicity photos and ticket sales information in the March editions.

Top Girls Performances: Neatishead Victory Hall: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

*Shelagh Smith and Joan Dickie*





Happy New Year from everyone at Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

We have a very exciting season ahead, why not join us as a player, supporter or sponsor – we have a place for everyone to feel welcome.

### **ABWCC :**

- **Winter Nets:** These are already in full swing for seniors and juniors, please get in touch or see social media for dates/times.
- **Girls' Cricket:** The club launched its dedicated girls section in 2025 and we hope to build on this in 2026. We have a competitive season lined up for them
- **All Ages & Abilities Welcome:** The club caters to all ages and abilities, with programs starting from age 5 (All Stars) to various senior teams, including Saturday, Sunday, T20, and midweek squads.
- **Family-Friendly Atmosphere:** The club prides itself on being a welcoming, family-friendly environment for players and supporters.

### **Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities:**

- The club is always looking for volunteers to help and new sponsors. There are great packages available for businesses to get involved and support grassroots sport.

**Contact Information:** Feel free to reach out with any queries

- For playing inquiries: [joeeverett333@gmail.com](mailto:joeeverett333@gmail.com)
- For activities and events: [ABWCC.events@gmail.com](mailto:ABWCC.events@gmail.com)

### **Stay Updated:**

Wroxham and Hoveton Lions

I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. As I write this, the weather is very cold, so I hope that you are safe and warm, that the roads are gritted sufficiently for you to drive safely (if you do), and that a thaw will come quickly!

Now, a message from this year's Club President, Past District Governor Lion Dennis Moxon. This year Wroxham & Hoveton Lions Club reaches, not one, but two major milestones. Firstly, the Club itself celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but as well as that 2025 is also the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lions Charity Shop, located in the Riverside Precinct in Hoveton.

Formed in 1975, the Club is a registered charity and part of the International Association of Lions Clubs. Over the years Wroxham & Hoveton Lions Club has covered the parishes of Wroxham, Hoveton, Horning, Salhouse, Rackheath, Horstead, Coltishall, Ashmanhaugh, Tunstead and Neatishead. However, in recent years, following the closure of the Lions clubs in Stalham, North Walsham and Sheringham & Cromer, the service area has expanded.

Through the hard work and dedicated service of its members, both past and present, and the generosity of the public, the Club has, over the years, been able to raise monies to support deserving causes and those less fortunate in our community. Although primarily supporting local causes, additionally, through donations to the Lions Clubs International Foundation, the charity arm of Lions Clubs International, it has been able to contribute to the various overseas projects. These include Disaster Relief, Childhood Cancer Support, Diabetes Prevention, Helping avoidable Blindness, Humanitarian & Hunger, prevention as well as supporting Young people.

By checking back through records, the Club has calculated that it has donated in excess of £1.65 million during its 50 years existence.

The Charity Shop opened in the old Post Office premises in the precinct in 2000 and since that time it has been the main source of income. Due to the hard work of the staff and volunteers over the years, the shop has gone from strength to strength. Selling a wide variety of good quality items including ladies and men's clothes, shoes, books, DVDs, records, Bric-a-Brac and children's toys, we are grateful for the generosity of the local community in donating their unwanted items to us.

Over the years we have supported countless charities and deserving causes, with donations towards both large and small. Support has ranged from toys for a children's play group to the purchase in 2016, of the Sea Palling inshore lifeboat, which was named "Lion Ros Clipston", in memory of one of our late members.

The Club holds business meetings twice a month – one face to face, the other via Zoom, but it is not all work or business. A Social meeting is also held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, where members can relax, with games, quizzes etc.

The Club is always on the look-out for new members, so if you have some spare time and would like to do something to help the local community, why not get in touch. Just visit our web site at [www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org](http://www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org) and send us a message.

That's all for this month, stay well.

Derick Bowler

PR Officer

Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club CIO

## Hello instrumentalists and singers!



**Do you, or did you, play an orchestral instrument?**

Do you still have the instrument?

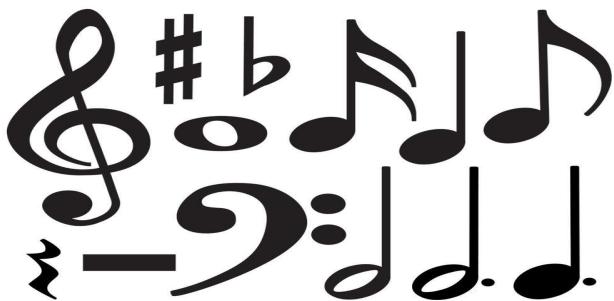
If so, are you interested in playing classical music occasionally just for pleasure?



**Do you like madrigals?** Would you be interested in singing madrigals occasionally?

How often we would meet will be up to those interested.

Let's explore what is possible!



**Learn to read music**  
Would you like to learn  
to read music?

If you are interested in any of these suggestions I would love to hear from you.

Peter Boshier [peterboshier@hotmail.com](mailto:peterboshier@hotmail.com) 01692 630695

## Museum of the Broads

# **It's hard to believe, but this is the warm up!**

2026 got off to a very cold start didn't it? As this article goes to press the January snow is still on the ground. Winter in Broadland can be stunningly scenic and weather such as we've seen recently can't help but remind us of winters past.

1947 saw skaters taking to the frozen Broads. Not an activity we would condone today, but it's a story of the Broads that - you might say - is frozen in time. (Sorry!)

And of course there was the legendary big freeze of 1963. As Beatlemania swept the country it was the weather charts that mattered most in Norfolk.

If you're venturing out for a walk by the Broads (and why wouldn't you?) you might find it odd to hear us say we're warming up - but we are. We're getting ready to see you again when we open in March.

We're well advanced with our huge programme of cleaning, restoring and refurbishing existing exhibits whilst planning and presenting new ones.

There is always a lot to do. So much so that we're still seeking new volunteers. Why not contact us to see if you can help? It's fun and rewarding. There are opportunities to help with general and boat maintenance as well as doing research for new displays and display installation work. There's lots to do as we prepare to reopen

Activities kick off in March with our **Spring Trail ~ Secret Signals!** From **Saturday 28th March to Sunday 12th April** (10.00am - 4.00pm) you'll be able to explore the museum to discover 12 hidden messages. Crack the code and claim your reward!

We can't wait to see you again. When you visit don't forget to check out our wooden 'Ice Yacht' in the Oulton building. Built in the late 1920s this splendid craft saw service in the winter of 1929 and was still working in the 1963 freeze. In fact, after repairs, it was out on the Broads in the 1980s. She was donated to the Museum in 2019.

It's a fascinating part of Broads history. And we love to bring the stories of the Broads alive.

**Come and see us in 2026.** We're well and truly in the warm up to reopen and make your visit as exciting and fun as possible.

**Check out all the details at - [www.museumofthebroads.org.uk](http://www.museumofthebroads.org.uk)**



### **Book Stall on the Wall at Whitegates, Lower Street – 2026!**

In 2025 we closed the book stall at the end of October when the weather turned wet and miserable. You might have read in the Horning Reach; we collected over £2400 which we shared between the Norwich Food Bank and St Benedict's Church. This was an amazing amount and appreciated by both of these charities.

It would seem from comments that many villagers are eager that we open again in 2026 especially as they browse our books as part of their daily walk. This year we have decided to re-open again in March and donate monies raised to the Nancy Oldfield Trust, a local charity which provides accessible boating and accommodation on the Norfolk Broads

In addition, and following on from generous donations from many of you in 2025, we will be collecting chocolate Easter Eggs to donate to Norwich Food Bank. We are starting the appeal today as Easter is a little earlier this year and we hope to hand them to the Food Bank representative when they pop along to the Lent Lunch organised by St Benedict's church on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. Villagers and visitors have been so kind and generous over the last four years we look forward to another successful Book Stall in 2026.

Thank you for your support

Thea and Peter



### **News flash**

#### **Road Works on Lower Street**

The Hub has organised for Vinnie Purdy, (road) Network coordinator at Norfolk County Council, to come to the Cosy Café on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 10.30 in the Mill Suite. You are welcome to join us and to put questions to him about what may or may not be achievable by his department to ease the situation on Lower Street, which has been subject to many closures in recent years and likely to be again in the future.

[horninghub@yahoo.com](mailto:horninghub@yahoo.com)

01692 630695

## Wroxham & District u3a Report

The u3a interest groups are getting back into swing after the Christmas festivities, with exciting plans for 2026.

The history group have trips planned, including The Great Hospital and an undercroft tour. The walking group have several walks organised, the bird group and lunch groups are planning their programmes, and the book, poetry and wine appreciation groups are planning for the year ahead. The rest of the groups are also getting into gear and include swimming, genealogy, art, music, French conversation, photography and general discussion, so something for everyone. Apart from our interest groups we have our general meeting monthly at Hoveton Village Hall, where we have a speaker and tea and biscuits; if you want to know what we are about and meet some of the members, do come along, it's on the 3<sup>rd</sup>Tuesday of each month, doors open at 2pm, £2 for members and £3 for visitors.

The next 3 meetings are as follows:

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Tony Brown – Arthur Patterson & Breydon Water

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Peter Lawrence – Humphrey Repton 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape gardener

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Georgette Vale – The Widow Kett

[Wroxhamu3a@mail.com](mailto:Wroxhamu3a@mail.com)

## Horning Christmas Tree

That's it, Christmas is done for another year and once again Horning and its fabulous Christmas tree have been the envy of many in the area. Various sources have commented on the tree and there was even a local village which, once again, asked on its social media "Why can't we do it like Horning?".

The tree could not happen without the financial contributions of villagers and the following village businesses,

<b>The Swan Inn,</b>	<b>Bure River Cottage Restaurant</b>
<b>Monzu Pizza</b>	<b>Tidings</b>
<b>Staithes and Willow</b>	<b>The Galley</b>
<b>The New Inn</b>	<b>The Ferry Inn</b>
<b>The Clubhouse</b>	<b>Bass Online</b>

And a very generous contribution from the Horning Boat Show Community Fund  
The tree was, once again supplied by Richard Gascoine

Thank you to you all for your support, not least the stalwart party who can always be relied upon to help dress and raise the tree. If you want to be involved in the 2026 tree please do not hesitate to get in touch.  
Chris Nicholson and Peter Bosier



Regular Events Contacts			
For Horning Village Hall Contact		<a href="mailto:bookings@horningvillagehall.org">bookings@horningvillagehall.org</a>	
Event	Venue		Contact
Hornung Hub		Susie	<a href="mailto:horninghub@yahoo.com">horninghub@yahoo.com</a>
Neatishead, Barton Turf and District WI		Sally	01692 630 753
Tap Dancing (tap shoes available)	HVH	Pam	07585 628 874
Zumba Gold Tone Stretching and Release	HVH	Hayley	07714 767 111
Horning Parish Council		Jo	<a href="mailto:clerk@horningparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@horningparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Badminton (Advanced)	HVH	Pauline	<a href="mailto:paulinebourne21@icloud.com">paulinebourne21@icloud.com</a>
Bridge	HVH	Jim	<a href="mailto:jim_fletcher@yahoo.com">jim_fletcher@yahoo.com</a>
Tai Chi	Preston Rooms	Anne	01603 784 874
Garden Group	Preston Rooms	Hazel	01603 783 986
Mah-jong Group	Preston Rooms	Carole	01603 929 368
Knitting Group	Preston Rooms	Jenny	01603 783 901
Yoga Mindfulness Sound Therapy Gong bath	HVH	Jessica	<a href="mailto:jessica@blissyoganorwich.co.uk">jessica@blissyoganorwich.co.uk</a> 07501 303 546
Pilates mat Pilates barre	HVH	Sue	<a href="mailto:susanproper@gmail.com">susanproper@gmail.com</a> 07835 945 142
Horning Art Group	MIII Suite	Margaret	<a href="mailto:margospringall@hotmail.co.uk">margospringall@hotmail.co.uk</a> 07857124856
Cosy Café	MIII Suite	Thea	<a href="mailto:horninghub@yahoo.com">horninghub@yahoo.com</a> 01692 630 695
Horning and District Flower Club		Carole	<a href="mailto:carolejswan45@gmail.com">carolejswan45@gmail.com</a> 01692 536 270
Church Coffee Morning	HVH	Christine	<a href="mailto:christine.hewitt@hotmail.co.uk">christine.hewitt@hotmail.co.uk</a> 07866 305 999
Horning Bowls Club and Short Mat Bowls		Trish	<a href="mailto:trishwish1@gmail.com">trishwish1@gmail.com</a> 01692 630 194
Ladies Lunch Club		Tricia	<a href="mailto:ladieslunchclub@btinternet.com">ladieslunchclub@btinternet.com</a> 07931 301 606
Horning School		Kerren	<a href="mailto:office-horning@coastaltogether.co.uk">office-horning@coastaltogether.co.uk</a> 01692 630 470

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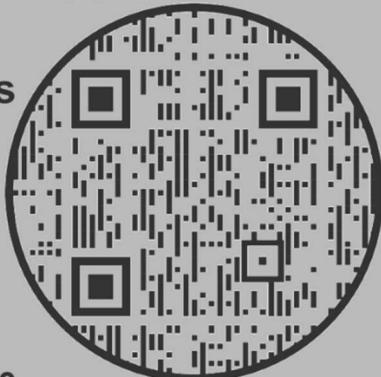


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Doctor's Surgery Ludham	01692 678611
Norfolk & Norwich Hospital	01603 286286
Cromer Hospital	01263 513571
NHS Help Line	111 – or visit
WHBVCC Medical Appointment Transport	01603 784455
Norwich Practices Health Care (Walk in Centre), Rouen Road, Norwich – Open seven days a week. Contact 01603 677500.	
Norfolk County Council	03448008020
North Norfolk District Council	01263 513811
Veterinary Surgery Wroxham	01603 783920
Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 111 444
Police non-emergency	101
Samaritans	FREE PHONE 116123
Norfolk Swift Response	0344 8008020 Option 1

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Ferry Marina Reception Ferry Road	NR12 8PS
Preston Rooms	NR12 8YN
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