

## **HORNING HUB**

Horning Hub came about from the desire to create a warm and welcoming space where all residents could come together to enjoy one another's company. It was also seen as a way of promoting existing groups and activities and encouraging the establishment of new groups, and with the intention of informing and welcoming new residents to the village.

A group of four residents came together to form Horning Hub and establish 'Friends of Horning Hub'. An application was made to The Horning Boat Show Community Fund for a grant to enable this to progress. Funding of £1500 was agreed to be made in staged payments and the first £500.00 was paid. Subsequently a second grant of £500.00 has been received. Horning Hub is extremely grateful for this funding without which the scheme would not have been possible. A Constitution has been written and Data Protection Regulations adhered to. Funds belonging to Horning Hub are held for us by The Parish Council.

A sizable number of Friends of Horning Hub volunteer to facilitate and support the activities arranged by The Hub on a regular basis.

The first activity taking place was in the form of a Tabletop Sale. The event was held in The Village Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Residents could book a table free of charge to sell items of their choosing, whilst other residents visited to buy from stalls or purely to sit and chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. This proved to be a successful event with many saying that they would like to do it again sometime.

In January, a 'What's on in Horning' day was held in The Village Hall. This gave the existing groups and organisations the opportunity to show what they have to offer. It gave residents the opportunity to see under one roof all the wonderful activities which take place in our beautiful village. It was a resounding success with some groups achieving new members and residents confirming how as a result they had discovered activities they did not know existed.

The Cosy Café was created to provide a warm and welcoming space intended for residents of the village. The first gathering took place as a Pop-Up event in December, just before the village Panto began. The chosen venue for the weekly meetings is used by the local amateur theatre group and therefore once the Panto ended mid January The Cosy Café was able to meet on a regular basis. Sessions take place every Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 12.30 serving hot and cold drinks with toast and biscuits. Local residents very kindly made and donated jams and marmalade and on occasions cakes and savoury snacks. No charge is made for refreshments, but voluntary donations can be made. In addition, a bring and buy table is available along with a book stall. All items are given by residents and any purchases are by way of a donation to The Hub funds. A regular group of residents come together to enjoy a what can be very noisy game of cards, others just like to sit and chat. Accompanied children are catered for with colouring in books and crafting items provided by The Hub.

In addition to the friendship and companionship offered at The Hub, sessions have been arranged to try and impart help and information. In March, through working with Community Action Norfolk we arranged an Energy Advice Session. This was held as part of our Cosy Café event and was well attended and very useful. Again, as a result of links with

Community Action Norfolk we arranged a First Aid Training event given by British Red Cross. The first event took place in April and was so successful that a second has been arranged for May.

Throughout the winter the number of residents attending The Cosy Café increased, making this a regular event for many. It was felt that it might be difficult to support weekly gatherings during the summer months, but it was encouraging to hear that residents wished to continue with The Cosy Café if possible. Therefore, gatherings will continue May – August on a once a month basis with a return to weekly meetings in September.

### **Coronation celebration events in Horning**

Once we heard the announcement that the King's Coronation would take place in May, the Hub team called together a number of villagers in December to discuss a potential plan for mounting celebrations. Although there was great enthusiasm for this idea, we were mindful of the financial implications in the current economic climate and in particular concerns over insurance. Regarding these issues, we approached Horning Parish Council for their support. This was agreed, thus enabling us to plan events with a certain amount of confidence.

In summary we were able to offer cake, fizz and music free to villagers on the day of the coronation, followed by another day of music and a series of free events for children during the Big Lunch.

We are particularly pleased that the whole weekend was coordinated alongside Songs of Praise from St Benedict's Church on the Friday concluding with a flotilla along the River Bure on the Sunday thus offering plenty of opportunities for Horning Villagers to come together.

None of this would have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of many villagers (sadly too numerous to mention), their practical help at the events, additional supply of fizz and huge amount of cake.

And the bonus: Freely given donations for the North Norfolk Food Bank amounting to over £290.

All activities arranged by Horning Hub are advertised using the Horning Reach, email, posters and Community Facebook.

The benefit of all these community events has been far reaching for all those concerned, and we all look forward to the continuation of their success and what they have to offer.

The Horning Hub Team 2023