

# Pea Festival



*We are going pea mad in Peasenhall.*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011 11.00am - 5.00pm**

The village of Peasenhall, in sleepy Suffolk, wakes up every year for the annual **Pea Festival**. The Pea-ple of Peasenhall love these little round and green vegetables so much that the 4<sup>rd</sup> annual Festival will happen on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July. They are so mad about peas that they continue to want to celebrate local pea history and traditions.

The Event hosts the **World Pea Podding championships**, The **National Fresh Pea Throwing Finals** and **Regional Pea Shooting Competitions**, (which are open to all), along with the **Pea Eating** (with chopsticks!) **Competition**, **Drop a Pea**, **Flick a Pea** and the **Pea Quiz**, plus numerous other whacky pea-themed activities and sideshows including the **Great Pea Draw**. There will also be fun **Cooking with Pea** recipe demonstrations.

The **Famous Pea and Pork** sausage and burger BBQ sizzle is back in operation and the delicious **Sweet Pea** cupcakes return along with a range of other pea-tainted refreshments. There will be a Licensed Bar with local beer, live entertainment with, among others, local musician Reg Reader, who will bring along his dulcimer.

They are all working to celebrate Peas and pea culture: re-connecting with the pea past of Peasenhall. The day starts at 11.30 on the Knoll with the fancy dress Pea Parade, everyone following the **Queen Pea**, **Princess Sweet Pea** and Captain Pea Pod down through the village to the Village Hall. Visitors are encouraged to dress up and join the parade, wearing their pea masks.

Peasenhall was originally known in Anglo Saxon times as Pesehala, 'Nook of Land where peas grow' and the village has only recently re-discovered its pea heritage after a gap of some 400 years.

Speaking today (4<sup>th</sup> May 2011), Peasenhall pea personality and local pea pundit Sally Tompkins said:

*'We are working hard to make this year's festival of peas even better than last year, building on our pea past and pea potential. It's great as the whole village gets involved and includes all age groups. This year, as usual, we are timing it to coincide with the Latitude festival weekend. The Pea Festival provides a fantastic alternative to Latitude as well as a place for tired and weary musicians, poets, actors and other performers from the music and arts festival to take a break and relax, revive themselves and enjoy a bit of local Suffolk culture and pea entertainment.'*

**For further information, interviews and photographs please contact:**

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### **Note to editors**

Peasenhall and the adjacent village of Sibton are located close to Yoxford off the A12 in the countryside between Aldeburgh and Southwold. The festival is centred in the historic Village Hall on the main street in the village.

# Pea Festival



## Peasenhall Pea Festival, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011

### Ten interesting facts about peas

1. The UK is the largest producer of peas for freezing in Europe. The area of East Anglia is particularly ideal for pea production.
2. There are about 35 hectares of peas grown in the uk each year equivalent to about 70,000 football pitches.
3. This produces about 160,000 tons of fresh peas, that's about 2 billion 80g portions.
4. The Latin name for peas is *pisum sativum*.
5. One serving of freshly frozen garden peas and petit pois contains as much vitamin c as two large apples, more fibre than a slice of wholemeal bread, and more thiamine than a whole pint of milk.
6. Peas and mint are like a marriage in heaven.
7. Freshly picked peas are frozen within 3 hours of being picked: this locks in the flavour.
8. You can eat peas all year long: frozen peas taste good although fresh is best.
9. Peas are a highly versatile vegetable: They taste good in every cuisine that you can think of: mutter panner for example is a classic Indian dish.
10. There's a Scottish folk song that starts "Green peas, mutton pies, tell me where my Maggie lies". Perhaps you know some other songs.

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