



## Greetings from the Chair

2015 sees the 50th anniversary of the Holt Society. Many of us will remember the brutalist, high-rise, flat-roofed 1960s architecture that so affected our towns and cities and it was with this background that some forward-thinking residents of Holt set up a group to do all they could to preserve the Georgian centre of their town. I believe we owe them a debt and that it is our duty to follow in their footsteps.

Devastated by fire in 1708 and then rebuilt over a period of 50 years or so, Holt has a unique architectural symmetry, especially throughout the High Street and Market Place. The town grew in importance as the 19th century unfurled, and side streets appeared including the charming ribbon of what is now Bull Street, Shire Hall Plain and Albert Street, blending smaller early and mid-Victorian buildings with their older and grander siblings.

We do not seek to block the growth of the town. We believe that the continued prosperity of Holt requires a fruitful partnership between commerce and history. Tourists and shoppers come to Holt because of its wonderful shops and its attractive buildings. We see 2015 as an opportunity to celebrate our pride in our lovely town, to mark our Society's 50th birthday and to welcome the publication, by John Roebuck, of the second volume of Holt's history.

In view of this, we are organising a programme of events during the first ten days of May next year. There will be an Exhibition, thanks to the generous cooperation of Adrian Hill, to include old photographs of the town. We shall launch this with a reception in Picturecraft on the evening of May 1st.

Amongst other ideas being pursued are a Garden party with a Georgian flavour and an Exhibition of arts and crafts on a common theme which will, we hope, attract entries from individuals, groups, clubs and societies and schools in the area. Please let us know if you have any more suggestions.

*Steve Benson*

GEORGIAN LECTURE  
**Children and Schooling in  
18th-Century Norfolk**  
by Margaret Bird



Margaret Bird, seen above with Steve Benson, enthralled her audience with a thoroughly researched description of schools in Georgian times. She painted a picture of supportive parents who wanted their sons and daughters instructed for the workplace. At this time corporal punishment was rare and frowned upon.

**Thursday 22nd May  
Visit to Norwich**

**Coach departs Holt 9.00am; returns ca.  
4.00pm**

Cost £16 per person including transport, guide, donation and refreshments on arrival at the Assembly House. Please provide your own lunch.

This trip is now fully booked but places are available for the visit to Raynham Hall on August 27<sup>th</sup>, see over.



Margaret Bird's Georgian Lecture in Big School at Gresham's

Please introduce friends to the Society – the more support we have the greater our impact.  
Contact Norman Cooker (01263 712113 or [norman.cooker@gmail.com](mailto:norman.cooker@gmail.com))

## GRAND DESIGNS FOR HOLT

Each generation likes to leave its mark on the built environment. The result is a legacy of architectural styles with names like Gothic, Baroque and Georgian, each of which tends to be a reaction to what has gone before. So when Holt was rebuilt after the fire in 1708 the Baroque was out and the simpler Georgian style, with its emphasis on symmetry and proportion, was in.

At a recent committee meeting we discussed our attitude to some of the innovations in building style that have appeared in recent planning applications. Flat roofs, glass panels, flint in a modern form, straight lines and timber cladding, are some of the features that are being used to create a contemporary form that is in many ways a reaction to the traditional style that we have grown used to in Holt. All these developments are residential and outside the conservation area so do not impinge on the Georgian centre of the town in any way. After a lively debate, we decided that there were probably as many views on this new style as there are members of the Society and most of us lie somewhere between the extremes of the traditionalists and the modernists.

Members should remember that we are very fortunate to be able to scrutinise the plans for these developments either on the NNDC planning department searches page or by visiting the NNDC office in Cromer. In either case you are able to make your individual views known and so we can all take part in developing the next architectural style for Holt.

## HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Holt Society has contributed £300 towards the provision of eleven photographs of Holt as it was. These have now been mounted on the upper parts of the walls in the main room of the Community Centre. They can be seen, provisionally placed, in the photograph of the AGM (below).

Images include those of Spout Hills, Gresham's Physics Laboratory, High Kelling TB Sanatorium, the High Street in the 1950s, White Horse Street before the Post Office was built, and the Railway Station.

A board with brief historical details is being prepared for display at eye level.

*Tony Leech*



## □ SUMMER OUTINGS □

### Oulton Hall Gardens

1<sup>st</sup> June 2014

Gardens Open under The National Gardens Scheme. See NGS website [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) for pictures

1.00 – 5.00 pm

Entry fee £5 (tea extra)

Make your own way there but meet for tea at 3.30 pm in the refreshment area.

Contact Wendy Roebuck (01263 713248) if you would like a lift.

### Ravnham Hall



1.15 pm from The Railway Tavern  
2 pm tour with Lord Townshend  
4 pm tea & cakes  
5.15 pm back in Holt

Cost: £11.50

Places limited to 25 so book early with Norman Cooker (01263 712113 [norman.cooker@gmail.com](mailto:norman.cooker@gmail.com))

Get ahead with Holt Society  
news – go to  
[www.theholtsociety.org](http://www.theholtsociety.org)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A brief formal meeting, at which Steve Benson was elected Chairman and Lindsay Furniss was welcomed on to the committee, was followed by a presentation by John Roebuck on the second volume of the *History of Holt* which he is writing. His period covers the early thirties to the late sixties and the work is well under way. John has interviewed many people who knew the town during this period and was able to relate some interesting anecdotes.

It is planned that the volume, to be published by the Holt Society, will be launched at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Spring 2014. There will be a pre-publication offer on the book.