



Meet the Victorians with Richard Jefferson and Mary Alexander

Tuesday 21st October 2014, 7.30pm at Gresham's Big School

For our autumn gathering this year for members and their guests, we are changing our focus - from the Georgians to the Victorians. Many of you will know Richard Jefferson's fine book



on William Johnson Jennis Bolding, the nineteenth century photographer who lived in Weybourne, and may have heard Richard talk about Bolding's life and work when he launched the book last year. The aesthetic qualities of the photographs are quite extraordinary and ahead of their

time in composition, lighting and mood.

Richard Jefferson will be teaming up with Mary Alexander in a 'double act' to bring these stunning photographs of family and local villagers to life using colour images of dress and accessories similar in style and date to the ones worn in Bolding's photographs. Bring your imagination with you for a fascinating evening when we will invite the Victorians to join the Holt Society's autumn event.

To be followed by a buffet. Tickets at £5 each include a glass of wine and are available from Norman Cooker on 01263 712113 (normancooker@gmail.com) or on the door.

Glad About the Glaven at Holt Hall

Saturday 27th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

A celebration of the local environment encompassing guided walks, a chance to learn about the Glaven's plants, birds and wildlife, exhibits from local organisations (including The Holt Society) and the opportunity to enjoy locally grown produce.

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)

DOT SHREEVE

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Dot Shreeve. Dot was a Norfolk girl, modest, quite shy, with a gentle and kindly manner. Furthermore she had a remarkable artistic talent especially for line-drawing and watercolour.

Ten years ago, the Society was planning to update its town guide *A Stroll Through Holt* and, shortly afterwards, produced a second publication, *Good Design is Good Business*. Dot offered her existing drawings of outstanding Holt buildings to illustrate these booklets, adding additional material as requested. And for all this she would accept no payment of any kind. Vic was an essential part of her team with his meticulous photography for Dot's guidance. They were made Honorary Members of the Holt Society.

Later she allowed her drawings to adorn the sign placed in Shire Hall Plain to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Great Fire of Holt in 1708.

More recently, Dot donated two exquisite watercolours to enable the Society to raise funds to carry out its work. It was a pleasure to see Vic and Dot at the launch last year of the Society's website. They both appeared delighted to be present and in good health, so it was a real blow to hear of Dot's death.

Vic will be devastated to lose such a wonderful wife and we shall miss her lovely smile, her patent goodness, her generous spirit and the warmth of a loyal friend.

Steve Benson



A Celebration of Holt

50th Anniversary of the Holt Society 1st - 8th May 2015

- A week-long exhibition at Picturecraft to celebrate key people and events in the town, with a launch party.
- * A one-day-only Pop-Up visual arts exhibition in the Church Hall (see below).
- Launch of the second volume of *A History of Holt* (1930s to 1970s) by John Roebuck.
- A community Bake Off Competition.
- Members-only Garden Party and music.
- Fish & chip supper with John Roebuck in conversation with Holt folk.

Follow the Holt Society website for further details. They will also be published in the Holt Chronicle.

* Popping-Up in May

The Pop-Up visual arts and design exhibition will feature a wide range of creative activities - drawing, painting, photography, graphics, ceramics, stained glass, textiles, patchwork, knitting, embroidery, carving, jewellery, and others. We hope that the many creative people around the town will use the colours, textures and architecture of Holt as their inspiration, and that this will stimulate everyone to look more closely at the visual environment.

This is time to start turning over ideas; several members have already agreed to contribute. Please tell friends who may be interested. We will also be encouraging local art and craft groups to get involved and display their publicity material. Works can be for sale or not. More details from Mary Alexander (01263 768022) or Peta Benson (01263 713605).

OULTON OUTING

‘What on earth is that plant – the leaves look like rhubarb!’ Such was the response prompted by the dramatic



planting at Oulton Hall during our visit on 1st June. There was no kitchen garden, very few roses and no herbaceous border *a la* Gertrude Jekyll. But what a garden; huge acanthus leaves, hostas up to your waist and original planting at every turn. Tea was taken surrounded by branches covered with the eye-catching white flowers of *Cornuskousa* to provide much needed shade. This was a garden visit to remember.

Get ahead with Holt Society news – go to
www.theholtsociety.org

Our day in Norwich

The idea of a Holt Society visit to Norwich arose when Vicky Manthorpe, Administrator and Secretary to the Trustees of The Norwich Society, spoke at our AGM in 2013. Just over a year later Vicky welcomed 26 members over coffee at The Assembly House, and introduced us to our guide Jan King (a previous Chair of The Norwich Society). Any visit is enhanced by local knowledge and her obvious love for the city was amply demonstrated by her expertise and fund of stories.



The first building we visited was the 15th century Guildhall, the seat of city government for 530 years until the administration moved over the road to City Hall in 1938. We were able to see below ground the crypt and dungeons with manacles still in the walls where Robert Kett had been held prior to his execution at the Castle. Upstairs we admired the old council chamber with its carved Tudor ceiling and 15th century stained glass window.

Crossing the road, we made a brief tour of City Hall, invading the Lord Mayor's parlour and admiring gifts received and the official gown. The main claim to fame of the City Hall, built in 1938, is the pair of fine bronze entrance doors.

These bear bas-reliefs by James Woodford showing the city's industries, past and present, along with key events in its history.

After making our own arrangements for lunch we met at St Peter Mancroft Church where Jan King introduced us to various aspects of the church. First consecrated in 1455, St Peter Mancroft Church is reputedly the finest medieval church north of the Alps. It is renowned for its beauty and its unique position in city life. Here we were able to view the remarkable collection of plate which includes a 'pome' to warm the priest's hands, before boarding the coach back to Holt.