



Now we are 50!

To celebrate the Holt Society's fiftieth anniversary we are planning a week of events at the beginning of May. A programme accompanies this newsletter but for final details consult the Society's website or look out for announcements in the *Holt Chronicle*. But we are celebrating more than the Holt Society, we are celebrating Holt and while some of the events will be restricted to members, most are open to all.

A week-long exhibition in the Picturecraft Gallery will feature aspects of the history of the town, especially its people. A rather different exhibition will 'pop-up' for a day at St. Andrew's Church Hall on Monday May 4th. With the title *A Sense of Place*, this is an opportunity for the many creative people in and around Holt to display artefacts created especially for the event.

All day on Saturday 2nd May the Holt Women's Institute will hold a Community Bake-off in the St Andrew's Meeting Room as part of our celebration.



This commemorative bookmark, designed by Joanna Wessely is enclosed as a gift to all members. Paid for by a generous benefactor.

People are very much the focus in *Wartime and Post-war Holt*, by John Roebuck. This sequel to Keith Entwistle's earlier volume on Holt takes us from the late 1930s to the early 1970s. The launch will be on Tuesday 5th May at Holt Bookshop where you can meet the author and enjoy a drink. John is also presenting an evening of memories at the Community Centre on Friday 8th May for which a fish-and-chip supper can be ordered.

The Members' Party on Wednesday 6th May is an opportunity to meet each other and see the house lived in by Jane Hales, local historian and a prominent member of the community during the period covered by John Roebuck's book.

There is more, too - see the enclosed programme. Nothing has been arranged for May 7th, however - you may have other things to do on that day.

Visit: The Textile Conservation Studio

Oulton Street at 2.00pm Tuesday 17th March

Although not generally open to the public, we have a unique opportunity to see at first hand the skill of the conservators as they work on precious pieces in the National Trust's textile collections. From repairing delicate embroidery to major surgery on a piece of tapestry, all undertaken by a professional, multi-disciplinary team.

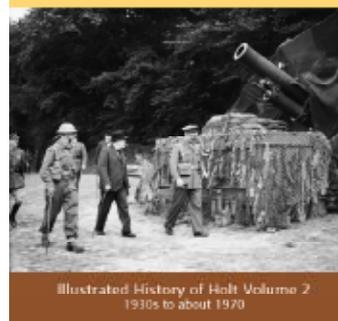


Meet at The Conservation Studio, Malthouse Barn, Oulton Street, NR11 6AF at 1.45pm. Cost £11.50 per person.

Places are limited to 25 so please book space early by contacting Norman Cooker at normancooker@gmail.com or on 01263 712113

Wartime and post-war Holt

John Roebuck



Illustrated History of Holt Volume 2
1930s to about 1970

Although a grant of £1000 was made by the Holt Museum Trust towards the production of this second volume on Holt's history, printing will cost much more. Please help to meet up-front costs by ordering now at the pre-publication price of £10.50 and save

£3.00! See enclosed flyer.

Offer open to Holt Society members and contributors to the book (who will be contacted by John Roebuck).

Getting together on signage

The Holt Society has long been concerned that inappropriate signs and notices in the town can detract from its appearance and impact negatively on spending in the town. Through the good offices of District Councillor Philip High, a meeting took place in early December at which Nicola Baker, the new Head of Planning at the North Norfolk District Council met representatives of the Holt Society, Holt Town Council and Holt Chamber of Trade.

Nicola Baker explained that although NNDC is responsible for enforcement action, a much better solution is to give good information, with the hope of avoiding enforcement. She felt it would be helpful if guidance notes could be drawn up explaining the regulations that NNDC work under, with particular reference to shop-front signage.

Nicola Baker thought that any such initiative would be more effective if it was seen to come from the community so the Holt Society has offered to create a welcome pack, incorporating such notes. We will discuss with estate agents the possibility of them distributing it to new businesses when they set up in the town.

Ian Cook, Holt Chamber of Trade, said that the majority of small businesses would be willing to engage and comply because in general they have come to Holt because they like the atmosphere. However, support from 'the corporates' was more difficult, although not impossible. He also suggested having a trail around the town, creating a flow with the route being marked with brass studs.

We are pleased to promote

Norfolk at the Pictures - an illustrated talk

Holt Library 2.00pm Monday 18th May

Norfolk at the Pictures is a project to collect and preserve memories of cinema-going across Norfolk. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is delivered by Cinema Plus at Cinema City in Norwich.

If you have any cinema-going memories, artefacts or pictures please bring them along. For more information about the project visit www.norfolkatthepictures.org

Holt's own cinema, the Regal in Peacock Lane opened in 1937 (when the photo below was taken) and closed in 1967.



An autumn AGM

With such a full 50th anniversary programme we have decided to postpone the 2015 AGM to the autumn.

Can you help?

We would be very pleased to hear from any member who would be prepared to 'steward' the exhibition in Picturecraft for a morning or afternoon, May 1st to May 9th. And from anyone who feels able to make a donation to help us cover expenses for the celebration week. Please contact Susan Williams swilliams151@btinternet.com

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

Community poem

A community poem is to be crafted by Phil Barrett and Lynda Turbet. It will be based on words and ideas gathered from people living and working in Holt. The finished poem will be displayed in the Holt Library and at the Picturecraft exhibition during the celebration week, and will be published in the Holt Chronicle.

Let us grow

Please introduce friends to the Society - the more support we have the greater our impact. Contact Norman Cooker (01263 712113 or normancooker@gmail.com)