



# Be sociable in 2016!

While our planning responsibilities continue behind the scenes, the first half of 2016 brings no fewer than three opportunities for members (and their friends) to enjoy talks with Holt connections and to socialise. Each is at a different venue so please check carefully!

Steve Benson, Chairman

Holt Society Lecture

## Admiral Sir Christopher Myngs: a forgotten Norfolk hero

Wednesday 16th March Big School, Gresham's

Admiral Sir Christopher Myngs may have been forgotten but Holt residents were reminded of his existence when 'Rebecca's Ring' was unearthed during work to add the Meeting Room to St Andrew's Church, for Rebecca was his daughter. She had died in 1734 and among her remains was a gold ring inscribed 'June 10th 66 Sr C M', a mourning ring in honour of her father, Sir Christopher Myngs who had died in 1666.



Photo: Gordon Follows

Sir Christopher Myngs (*right*) was a larger-than-life national hero of the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-7) but in his younger days he had been a ruthless pirate in the Caribbean. These buccaneers were part of a British plot to undermine Spanish dominance in the region but not all of the treasure he captured was passed to the authorities. It is tempting to speculate that some found its way to his daughter in Holt.

Talk commences at 6.30 pm

£4 Members/£5 Non-members

Holt Society Lecture

## John Hales of Holt: a GP and his family in the mid-19th century

Friday 19th February, Holt Community Centre

Dr John Hales operated in all senses of the word, from his house on the Norwich Road where his son 'Dr. Bob', father of Jane Hales, later took over the practice.

The speaker, Dr Michael Muncaster, read History at UEA and is currently a Lecturer for the Workers Educational Association in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Talk commences at 6.30 pm, bar open from 6.00 pm

£3 Members/£4 Non-members

Summer Visit

## Hoveton Hall Estate Gardens

2.00pm Thursday 9th June £12 per person

Introduction and tour of gardens followed by tea and cake

[www.theholtsociety.org](http://www.theholtsociety.org) for more details



Speaker  
Dr  
Stephen  
Martin  
lives in  
North  
Norfolk  
and has  
been  
head of  
three  
leading  
Public  
schools.

He is an author of several books on modern naval history and war poetry as well as a series of historical crime thrillers set in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I.



## THE HOLT ANGEL

Those of you who attended the Pop Up Art Exhibition during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations will have seen the beautiful Holt Angel painted by local artist Alison Wagstaffe. The Holt Society had contacted Alison in September 2014 to see if she might be willing to create an angel of Holt especially for the 2015 event. She has created other angels of places, more usually as individual

client commissions, and was immediately enthusiastic about the project. We gave her carte blanche to generate ideas, but agreed that the Angel should be a source of continued protection from the Great Fire of 1708. As you may know, Alison often includes angels as nurturing images of comfort, solace and protection. The resulting canvas sprang from her imagination as she was thinking about the flames licking round the angel's feet while new life in the form of trees and leaves was pouring from her hands. She also decided that the dress had to be cooling blue!

Alison has now produced a print of this original painting and has generously proposed a special price for Holt Society members of just £40.

The mounted image is 50 cm high by 41 cm wide and is a giclee print with archival quality ink on acid free paper. Each print will be clear wrapped, signed and have a unique edition number.

To purchase a copy of this beautiful print please email [swilliams151@btinternet.com](mailto:swilliams151@btinternet.com) in the first instance to reserve a print and then send a cheque for £40 made payable to The Holt Society. Post to Geoff Davis, 6 Eccles Road, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6HJ.

### Forthcoming: *Glimpses of Holt - the book*

Following the success of the *Glimpses of Holt* exhibition at Picturecraft during the 50th year anniversary celebrations in May 2015, the displays are being reprinted in 64 pages. A5 book form which will be on sale early in the 2016.



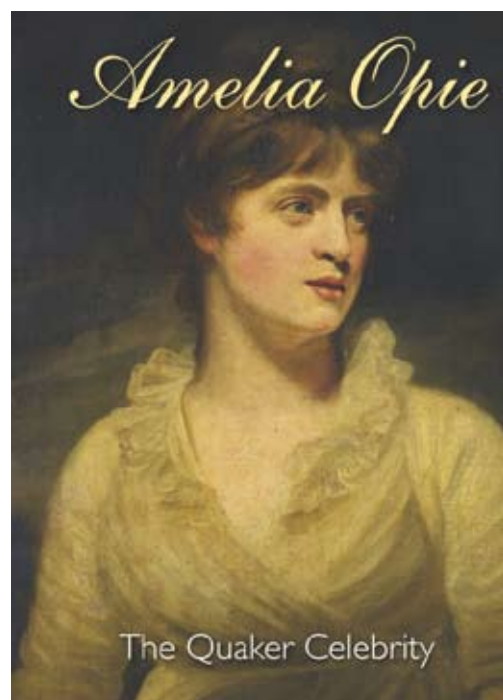
## Holt Society AGM

Back at its usual time of year **Thursday 28th April. St. Andrew's Church Hall.**

AGM commences 6.30, followed by guest speaker, drinks and buffet.

Guests are welcome although unable to vote.

*Amelia Opie: The Quaker Celebrity*  
Ann Farrant



Ann Farrant was born in Norwich and trained as a journalist. She has worked in many branches of the media including

BBC television, newspapers and magazines. Her prize-winning biography on Amelia Opie stems from her MA dissertation in Life Writing at UEA.

## Help us grow

Membership subscriptions for 2016 are now due.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two membership forms, one for you to complete and return to Norman Cooker, 2 Cromer Road, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6EZ. and one to persuade your friend(s) to join us to help boost our membership to its highest ever.

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