



Newsletter August 2017

HOLTS AROUND THE WORLD

Our new sign in Appleyard



Many of you will have already seen our new sign in Appleyard replacing the original sign erected in 2001 to commemorate the Millennium. Time and weather had taken their toll on the traditional wooden sign, designed and hand-painted by local signwriter Basil Huggins.

Rather than replace it with another wood version, we decided to explore the longer lasting potential of new materials technology. We needed to find a creative and experienced designer, preferably local, who would produce a distinctive design. But equally important, he/she had to be sensitive to the heritage character of our historic Georgian town.

We were so fortunate to find Tom Cox of DESIGNSIGNS (pictured above) who was trained as a graphic designer at City College Norwich and has produced other attractive and sympathetic shop signs in Holt. He recommended using a weatherproof aluminium composite board which would accommodate our choice of a matt texture and deep Georgian green colour to blend well with the flint and brick wall. The new material also enabled us to retain our distinctive lunette shape at the top of the board - a distinctive design identity which displays our Holt obelisk logo to best effect.

The original Holt Society Millennium sign was devised by local historian and Holt Society member Michael Barrett (1948-2002). We have updated the population of the town to 3962 (in 2015) and have added more countries known to have places named Holt. Take a stroll into Appleyard and enjoy ...

Mary Alexander

Positive Planning Results



This is a Nationally listed building which has been badly neglected. Once again we are urging NNDC to take action here. Hopefully, we will soon be able to report some positive results on Praise Cottage. Watch this space

Much of the committee's time is spent in responding to planning applications that threaten to damage the historic centre of Holt. This negative work can be dispiriting. So it is with immense delight that we can report on two recent examples of positive planning.

First, the new-look Santander. We lobbied NNDC to make the adoption of heritage signage a condition for acceptance of their recent refit plans. NNDC agreed and now the standard scarlet fascia has been replaced by the company's grey and cream heritage colours.

Secondly, additions to local listing. We have advised NNDC on some additions that we felt should be on their list of locally important buildings. While these do not have the statutory protection of National listing, any future planning decisions would have to make reference to their local importance as recognised by NNDC. We identified five buildings which we considered merited this safeguard. Two of these, the Primary School and Shirehall Cottage, have been accepted by the conservation department of NNDC and have now been added to their list.

Finally, we are working to get Praise Cottage in Bull Street repaired.

Wendy Roebuck

TEA AT THE OLD RECTORY

The Holt Society had the unique privilege to be invited to see the Old Rectory Holt on Sunday the 18th June, 2017. It was a beautiful sunny day we were able to have our large and sumptuous tea outside on the lawn. The copious feast was provided by Philip Murrell and his team from St. Andrews Church. Richard Neech escorted members around the house, which has been extensively restored since he had been in residence. The day raised £150 for the Norfolk Churches Trust.

We are very grateful to Richard, Philip and his team for making such a successful event for the Holt Society. Catherine Hume



HIGHLIGHTS from the Chairman's AGM Report

The Domesday Slate, designed and carved by Teucer Wilson, was bought by The Society after a highly successful pledge campaign and placed in the Methodist Memorial Garden. The unveiling by the Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah, Methodist Minister of Holt, was followed by a reception for contributors at Picturecraft.

A booklet, *Glimpses of Holt*, containing the images used during the 50th celebrations, was published in November.

Due to healthy sales, both *A Stroll through Georgian Holt* and *Wartime and Post-War Holt* need reprinting.

Two talks took place in 2017. In February Dr. Francesca Vanke spoke on 'The Paston Treasure', and in March David Sharp gave us 'Parson Woodforde and his World'.

Hoveton Hall Gardens were visited in June 2016.

The Society continues to be involved with the development and funding of the Holt Owl Trail. The Chairman requested support for a promise of up to £1000; a show of hands gave unanimous support.

Holt Lights (in November) will receive, as in previous years, £200.

A sound system will be bought for the Society.

We will continue to work closely with NNDC in our work to protect the Georgian integrity of central Holt. We are currently working on extending the Local Listings of buildings. Retiring District Councillor Philip High's contribution and support over planning issues was warmly acknowledged.

Steve Benson

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Visit to Elsing Hall Gardens

2.00 p.m Sunday September 10

Cost £10. Includes tea. Members only. Payable in advance.

Please contact

Catherine Hume 01263 715 784

chume.peacocks@gmail.com

to book or for more details.

We are sorry to record the recent deaths of two of our members whose work for the Society we feel deserves especial notice

TED SWEET

Ted Sweet served for many years as our Honorary Secretary and is remembered for his speed of delivery of the Society's Newsletter as befitted an enthusiastic Rambler who led ten-mile walks well into his eighties. The current *Strolls through Georgian Holt* owes much to Ted who in 1994 produced a revised edition of the original booklet then entitled *Holt Town Walks*, written by the Society's first Chair, Marjorie Beevers in 1980.

Ted was a lovely man and a loyal committee member. His common sense, wicked sense of humour and genial personality added greatly to the enjoyment of our committee meetings.

Steve Benson

VIC SHREEVE

Many members will recall Dot Shreeve whose exquisite line drawings have illustrated many of our publications. Dot died several years ago and now her devoted husband Vic has joined her. Vic provided the photographs from which Dot made her drawings and his skills complemented hers. They were both made Honorary Members of the Society for their generosity in donating their work for our use.

Two of Dot's watercolours were also donated to help raise funds for the Society and for the Domesday Slate now located in the Methodist Memorial Garden. It was particularly good to welcome Vic to our AGM in 2015 when he proudly presented one of her paintings to the lucky winner of the raffle.

Steve Benson

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