



THE OWL HAS LANDED!

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the Holt Owl Trail will be in place. Twenty-four 12" bronze plaques, core-drilled into the pavements, with an explanatory brochure guide, will lead visitors to places of interest in, and off, the High Street and to the many back lanes and yards not so easily discovered by those who do not know their way around. Everyone benefits: businesses, shops, cafes and restaurants, shoppers and visitors more interested in history and heritage.

The Town Council, the Chamber of Trade, the Holt Society and other interested parties have made generous donations to make this enterprise possible, together with a bumper contribution from The Big Society Fund. Much of the background work has been led by four people, all of them members of our Society: Michael Hill of Picturecraft, Duncan Baker, District and Town Councillor, Philip High, former District Councillor, and your current Chairman, Steve Benson.

The guide will be available, free, from adjacent shops and businesses and in 2018 a mobile optimised version will be accessible.

A special opportunity for members to visit The Textile Conservation Studio Oulton Street, Nr Blickling



The studio is not generally open to the public but we have a unique opportunity to see at first hand the skill of the conservators as they work on precious and often unique pieces in the National Trust's textile collections. From repairing delicate embroidery on a costume to major surgery on a piece of tapestry from a wall hanging, all are undertaken by a professional, multi-disciplinary team. So join us behind the scenes and see this delicate and intriguing work up close.

Tuesday 20th March 2018

Meet at The Conservation Studio, Malthouse Barn, Oulton Street, NR11 6AF at 1.50pm.

Cost £12 per person.

Places are limited so please book early by contacting Keith Gosden via email at holtmembers@holtmembers.org or by phone on 01263 711223.



DATES FOR 2018 booking not needed

- Thursday February 8th 7.00 pm St Andrew's Church Hall.

Talk by **Sue Smart and Elizabeth Waites**

Dissent in Holt 1670-1720. These local historians have researched two Quaker families, the Kirbys and the Moores, living and working in Holt, whose fortunes were transformed by the Great Fire of 1708.

- Thursday March 15th 7.00pm The Fishmongers Recital Hall, The Britten Building, Gresham's School

Talk by **Charlotte Crawley and Simon Kinder**

Sir John Gresham: The Man, his School and his Image. Sir John Gresham founded Gresham's School in 1555. Simon Kinder, teacher of History, will explain who Sir John was, how he made his money and why he founded a school in Holt. Charlotte Crawley, Art Historian, will relate the fascinating tale of how she tracked down Sir John's portrait in 2017.

Talks: Members £3; non-members £4. Drinks available.

- Friday April 11th 6.30pm Holt Community Centre. AGM followed by

talk by **Paul Rhymes**, officer in the Conservation and Design Department at NNDC

Drinks and light refreshments as usual. No charge.



On a rather grey day in September, owner Patrick Hines welcomed a party from the Holt Society to Elsing Hall, built 1470. After encouraging us to walk round the grounds, he spoke about the history of the house and served tea.

Membership renewal made simple

Given the myriad of things that happen in the New Year; trying to remember to pay your annual membership fee, of just £5.00, on January 1st, can sometimes present a problem! Help is at hand.

You should have already received a letter outlining how the membership fees can now be paid automatically, by a bank standing order. This, of course, does not mean that you lose control of your payment process, as you can simply stop the standing order in the event that you wish your membership to cease. However, should you wish to use this facility it will allow you to focus your attention on all the other activities that occur around the New Year, in the knowledge that your membership will be automatically renewed. Of course, if you wish to continue to pay by cheque this will still be most welcome.

Payment by standing order has frequently been asked for by members and the Society is delighted to be able to offer it going forward. It will also help the Society to keep costs down in the longer term, so a double win!

In addition, we have 'upgraded' our membership cards to plastic credit card size ones, which means that you can retain these year after year.

We very much hope that this new membership process will be welcomed by you. The committee thank you all for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2018.

Keith Gosden

Away with Mary

Much of the Holt Society monthly committee meetings is taken up with organising events and dealing with planning matters. This does not leave much time for long-term planning and strategic thinking. To create an opportunity for this, Committee member Mary Alexander has invited the committee to her house for an 'away day' in January. We will report back.

Steve Benson's 20 page booklet A Stroll Through Georgian Holt, published by the Holt Society, has been reprinted and is available from The Holt Bookshop for just £1.

Follow the Chairman

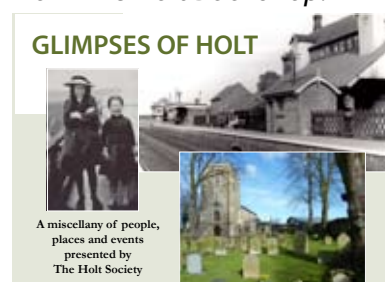
Chairman Steve Benson is well known for his knowledge of Holt history and his ability to convey this so interestingly. Over the past year he has written a series of small articles for *Just Holt* magazine. All are available on The Holt Society website.

www.theholtsociety.org

- Mr Jex's Pigeon
- The Holt Workhouse
- The Spout Hills
- Lions and Grotesques
- Mr Olley's Stables
- The Star shines brightly once more

Just a suggestion!

For Christmas presents for those relatives and friends who have an interest in the town, may we suggest one of our publications, all available from The Holt Bookshop.



Intriguing photographs of the town's past and present inhabitants, long-lost buildings and snippets of stories recounting a thriving town with an interesting history. Price £5.



This volume takes up the story of Holt from where the first volume (still available) ended in the 1920s and pursues the history of the town up to, roughly, the early 1970s. The threat of a German invasion turned the town into a strategic centre for coastal defences; Holt, in effect, became a garrison town. The author has called upon the memories of nearly 100 people and has used many unpublished photographs- Price £13.50.

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