

Newsletter February 2019



Business as usual?

Despite the notice outside Byford's after an explosion in 1906, business is never 'as usual' - and recently things are changing even more rapidly on the High Street. The Holt Society is presenting an exhibition at The Picturecraft Gallery 17-29 May 2019 to show how businesses in Holt have changed through the years, the pressures which have driven these changes and how the changes might play out in the future. A team, including life-long Holt resident Michael Hill, is contributing to the exhibition under the direction of Mary Alexander.



DATES FOR 2019

Booking is needed for visits but not for talks or the AGM. Further details of events will be found elsewhere on these pages.

Feb 20 Wednesday 7.00pm
Holt Cinema - a Regal History
a talk by John Jarvis
Britten Building, Gresham's School

April 5 Friday 6.30pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
followed by a talk (details to be announced)
Britten Building, Gresham's School

May 17-29
Exhibition: **Business as Usual - Holt Moves On**
Picturecraft Galleries, Holt

June 7 Friday 2.30pm
Visit: **Brinton Hall**

September 4th Wednesday 2.30pm
Visit: **River Glaven at Natural Surroundings**

Holt cinema - a Regal history

When The Regal cinema opened in Peacock Lane, it quickly supplanted the existing cinema in New Street which had opened a few years earlier. In *Wartime and Post-war Holt*, John Roebuck describes it as 'almost the eighth wonder of the world'.

As a young man, John Jarvis became assistant projectionist at The Regal and has since chronicled its rise and eventual demise, amassing a wealth of stories, images and memorabilia.

We are delighted that John has agreed to speak to The Holt Society on Wednesday February 20th at 7.00pm in The Britten Building, Gresham's School.

Entry £4 members; £5 non-members, including wine/juice. No booking.





November saw the successful launch of the children's book *Escapades in Holt*. Based on an idea of Lindsay Furniss and produced by Susan Williams (Hon. Secretary) the book aims to bring local history to life in a way that appeals to both the young and not so young alike. Designed to encourage children, families and friends to discover the wonderful town of Holt through a series of interesting stories and local anecdotes, the tale guides readers artfully on a trail following the town mascot – Olly the Owl.

Story lines, brought to life in rhyme by Lynda Turbet, captivate and draw the reader in, whilst stylish and quirky illustrations by Andy Ward take a full cast of characters on a page-turning adventure. Read as they fly, walk or even charge, through the humorous storylines and weave their way in and out through recognisable buildings and street scenes of Holt.

Donations from our members have helped to keep the price low so that it is accessible to as many children as possible and a 'donation' scheme offering free books to local schools,

children's charities etc is due to be rolled out later this month. Thank you again to all those who supported us in this project. Copies are available at £4.99 from The Holt Bookshop, Budgens, Pensthorpe Natural Park and other outlets.

Visits

On **June 7**, Jeremy and Esmé Bagnall-Oakeley have invited us to visit **Brinton Hall**. After a tour of the house and gardens, Esmé (former Chair of the Holt Society) will provide tea, and Jeremy will give an organ recital in the church.

Transport by own car; please share as parking is limited and let Catherine know if a lift is needed.

Start 2.30pm. Cost £15. To book, contact Catherine Hume at chume.peacocks@gmail.com or on 01263 715784. Payment in advance.

For something rather different, on **September 4** we will be visiting the **River Glaven at Natural Surroundings, Bayfield**. For over ten years the River Glaven Conservation Group has managed a series of projects on the river to improve its water quality and habitats. This will be an opportunity to hear about them and to take a short walk to see the river. The visit will start at 2.30pm; transport by own car.

Afterwards, Simon and Anne Harrap will provide tea at Natural Surroundings, their wildlife garden centre on the Bayfield Estate, where there will be an opportunity to buy plants and wildlife items.

Start 2.30pm. Cost £8. To book, contact Catherine Hume at chume.peacocks@gmail.com or on 01263 715784. Payment in advance.

Annual General Meeting

April 5 Friday 6.30pm

Britten Building, Gresham's School

Buffet and refreshments available. No charge. No booking.

Agenda papers will be distributed.

Business followed by a talk - details to be announced

REMINDER – The New Year means that the annual subscriptions are due. For those who don't pay by standing order can I please ask that you send your subscription (£5 per person) to Keith Gosden, Hanworth House, 23 Cromer Road, Holt NR25 6EU if you have not already done so. Cheques should be made payable to The Holt Society. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

PHILIP HIGH

The tragic news of Philip's death was received as this newsletter was being drafted. Philip had recently joined the Holt Society committee as our Planning Officer and had already made an outstanding contribution.

He will be greatly missed by the very many people in Holt who knew him as a friend and who appreciated the tireless way in which he worked for the town.

We send our condolences to Philip's wife Julie and to all his family.