

Newsletter May 2020



From the Chairman

Members will understand why our programme was suddenly aborted. It will resume, but it is too early to make specific plans. We have however decided to fulfill the requirements of an AGM for 2020 as explained in the accompanying sheet.

It is our intention to re-arrange the visit to Ware Hall but no date has been set and we will be refunding money paid by those who had booked places.

We are fortunate to enjoy living in a pleasant environment but must remember that infection is no respecter of geography.

We are grateful to those members who have opted to receive Holt Society communications by email but on this occasion it was decided that a 'belt and braces' approach would ensure that all members were fully informed. Please let the Membership Secretary know if you wish to change your preference.

Tony Leech

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Nostalgia is a thing of the past

We had anticipated wide interest in the presentation by John Jarvis in March, introduced by Mary Alexander, but were overwhelmed by the numbers attending. The capacity of the Community Centre was reached and, very sadly, a number of people had to be turned away. We have plans to repeat the event in some form but, like all our plans, this one is on hold.

Twenty years ago, Steve Benson interviewed some of the older residents of Holt about their memories of the town and its inhabitants. John had skilfully edited these and in the first half of the evening presented them, thus fascinating not only members of the audience who had known the subjects but newcomers who learned much about the social history of the town. After an interval, John showed his recently filmed sequences, combined with older material, to show the changes that had taken place in New Street. And change there had been.

Reminiscences from John Chandler and contributions from the audience added to the interest of the evening and proved the appeal of nostalgia.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

All members are important to the Society as the greater the membership the more 'influence' we have so thank you to all members, and there are nearly 250 of us, for payment of your 2020 subscriptions. This is much appreciated, especially the increasing number that are using the Standing Order method. This makes life so much easier for all of us.

However, a small but important, number of members have not had the opportunity to pay their 2020 subscription(s). Some, I am sure, were intending to pay at the AGM which, of course, is now postponed thus making this impossible.

We totally appreciate and understand that subscription renewal is not a top priority at this time but if you are sure that your and possibly your partners subs are due we would appreciate payment. This can be safely undertaken, if you have internet banking, by bank transfer (sort code 20-30-81 account number 90492655) - please include your initials and surname as the reference. Alternatively, if you are able to leave your house then feel free to post me a cheque made payable to 'The Holt Society' to Hanworth House, 23 Cromer Road, Holt NR25 6EU. Please note that the renewal remains at £5.00 per person.

Should you not be sure if you have already paid I am able to confirm via email at holt societymembership@outlook.com. Alternatively, you can phone me on 01263 711223.

Keith Gosden. Membership Secretary



Mary Alexander and John Jarvis proving that *Nostalgia is a thing of the past*.

Chairman's Report 2020

I start by thanking, on your behalf, my fellow committee members. We meet every 4-6 weeks and such is the convivial nature of the group that I have been quite unable to keep the meetings as brief as I would wish. Sadly, we say farewell to two members. Mary Alexander who for many years has brought her very special expertise to the Society, not only coming up with imaginative projects but putting them into practice. Catherine Hume has been with us for a shorter time but has undertaken the challenge of matching members' applications for places on visits to availability with patience and good humour. Over the past year these visits included one in June to Brinton Hall and gardens, hosted by former Holt Society chairman Esmé Bagnall-Oakeley and her husband Jeremy. The second summer visit was to Natural Surroundings, the natural garden centre on the Bayfield Estate. This included a walk to view the 're-surfacing' of the River Glaven round Bayfield Lake, a project managed by the River Glaven Conservation Group.

In the absence of a Holt history society, the Holt Society has taken on the mantle of maintaining interest in the history of the town. This it is happy to do, at least until any other organisation assumes the task. It has meant that recent talks have had a less specifically Georgian flavour, including one by Richard Jefferson on collecting early Norfolk maps and a splendid evening on a half-century of changes in the town, chronicled by John Jarvis. In a further nod to the Holt Society's role, the Town Council had invited us to establish a Heritage Room in Nelson House but plans for that, too, are in abeyance.

The Society's publications continue to sell well and *Escapades in Holt* is now stocked further afield by True's Yard Museum (King's Lynn), Jarrold's (Norwich) and at the North Norfolk Railway. Distribution of free books continues, with Holt, Kelling, Blakeney and Gresham primary schools receiving theirs, along with Holt, Wells, Fakenham, Sheringham, Cromer and North Walsham libraries.

Through the hard work of Membership Officer, Keith Gosden, membership has risen to over 240. I thank you all for your support and look forward to being able to enjoy it in the social way to which we have become accustomed.

During the year, the Holt Society has played a full part in developing the Owl Trail which is now 'set in stone'. We were able to get a Market Towns Initiative grant for additional leaflets and posters and have developed a good working relationship

with Love Holt, an initiative to promote the town which has emerged from the Holt Chamber of Trade.

As a consequence of Ann Farrant speaking to the Holt Society on the life of Amelia Opie in 2017, we supported, with a small donation, an appeal by the Castle Museum to purchase a double portrait of Amelia Opie for the County. As a result, the Society received an invitation to attend its unveiling.

As part of the Holt Festival, the Holt Community Centre ran a Children's Art Project, with Holt Primary School. The Holt Society sponsored a group of prizes which were presented by Polly Binns. For the 1940s weekend events, the Holt Society produced a series of poster boards based on John Roebuck's *Wartime and Post-war Holt*.

And we have plans for the future. The Holt Society will soon publish a booklet being written by Sue Smart about the memorials in St Andrew's Church and the history behind them. It is hoped that profits from this will support the SALSA (Sound and Light for St. Andrew's) appeal. We are also funding a leaflet on Rebecca's Ring, featuring a poem by Lynda Turbet and an account of the ring's discovery when the church extension was built. Looking further ahead (March 2021), we have accepted the kind offer by the historian (and Holt Society member) Margaret Bird to speak to the Society. This will be accompanied by the launch of a Walking Tour of Holt leaflet written by Margaret.

Holt Society committee

The departure of Mary Alexander and Catherine Hume created two vacancies on the committee. Applications were received from Ken Jones and Paul Plumstead. After meeting them we proposed them for election. Pending an AGM, existing members have agreed to remain in post, and the new members have been co-opted.

Tony Leech

POSITION	NAME	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Chair	Tony Leech	Steve Benson	Stephen Hume
Vice-chair/ Membership Sec.	Keith Gosden	Susan Williams	Mary Alexander
Hon. Secretary	Susan Williams	Mary Alexander	Tony Leech
Hon. Treasurer	Geoff Davis	Stephen Hume	Keith Gosden
Planning Officer	Stephen Hume	Geoff Davis	Steve Benson
Committee Member	Steve Benson	Polly Binns	Catherine Hume
Committee Member	Polly Binns	Catherine Hume	Susan Williams
Committee Member	Ken Jones	Tony Leech	Polly Binns
Committee Member	Paul Plumstead	Keith Gosden	Geoff Davis

Treasurer's Report: summary receipts and payments account 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Balance brought forward 1/1/2019 Barclays Bank	4063.67	AGM refreshments and hire of hall	240.75
220 Subscriptions (net)	1100.00	Gift of wine to Steve Benson as retiring HS Chairman	25.00
4 Donations	34.00	The Regal event - speakers fee, venue hire, wine etc.	198.50
The Regal event - proceeds	248.00	Brinton Hall - net event costs	326.00
Brinton Hall visit - proceeds	401.00	Glaven Valley - ticket costs	272.00
Glaven Valley visit - proceeds	264.00	Publicity for Escapades in Holt	146.85
457 sales of Escapades in Holt	1860.22	Newsletter printing and postage	113.22
23 sales of Wartime & post-war Holt	186.30	Venue hire for John Jarvis 'Nostalgia' event in March 2020	79.50
33 sales of Glimpses	102.00	Annual web hosting fee	57.46
100 sales of Strolls	75.00	Printing of 20,000 Holt Owl Trail leaflets* (MTI)	2650.00
Funding for Holt Owl Trail* (MTI)	7210.00	Information boards for Holt Owl Trail*(MTI)	3172.80
		Book prizes for children's art event at Holt Festival	50.00
		NAHDF group membership fee	40.00
*The MTI funding balance of £1387.20 has been carried forward to 2020		Domain name registration fee	26.78
		Fasteners for hanging boards in Nelson House	16.56
		Other items	0.90
		Balance at 31-Dec	8127.87
	15544.19		15544.19