

Newsletter April 2022



Hopefully, all our members are now well aware that on Thursday, 24th February we launched our fundraising campaign, to commission two carved slates, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. A mock-up of one of the slates is shown here.

In an effort to raise approximately £10,000 required we have, as you may be aware, written to each of our 253 members, along with a number of friends of the Society and local businesses, outlining the project and asking if they would like to donate. We are pleased to say, at the time of writing, that we have now received £2,500, which is a ¼ of the way to our target. So, to our 37 Holt Society members along with some friends of Holt, who have already donated, we say thank you for your generosity.

In addition to these communications, we have had details of our campaign published by 'Love Holt', on their weekly 'wrap' and a full-page advert has been placed in the March edition of the Holt Chronicle.

To enable Teucer Wilson to commence the work we have been extremely fortunate to have had the cost underwritten. We still need to repay this, though, so all contributions, large or small are most welcome. We would be delighted if you are able to support us with this imaginative project that will enhance our Townscape and show our gratitude to Her Majesty, for the dedication and leadership she has shown both to the UK and the Commonwealth.

You can do so, please, by sending your contribution direct to The Holt Society. Our bank details are as follows:

- Holt Society, (A/c) 90492655, (Sort Code) 20-30-81, (Reference = Your Name + the word Jubilee).

OR

- By sending cash or a cheque, made payable to The Holt Society, to:
- Hanworth House, 23 Cromer Road, Holt NR25 6EU. It would help if you could include your name if sending cash.

The slates will be unveiled on Thursday, 2nd June by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt MBE, representing HM The Queen. It is hoped, with the permissions being granted, that the slates will be sited in Fish Hill, which provides a safe environment for people to view them. Should this not be possible an alternative site will be selected with the help of the Town Council. Details of all the proposed events over the extended Bank Holiday weekend can be found on the web at www.holtcelebrates.org

Thank you again for your generous support thus far but please remind your friends and neighbours that we still need to continue to collect donations, in order to reach our target.



Mary Hardy's Georgian Holt

A walking tour by the Holt Society

The town-centre stroll is mapped on the back page



TWENTY PLACES TO SEE, associated with daily life and work in this north Norfolk town in the late 18th century.

The tour can start and end at any point on the map. The guide will begin here, at the Feathers [1] and King's Head [2]. These two handsome inns have been at the heart of Holt since their rebuilding after the great fire of 1798.

The walk ends on the hidden gem of Spout Hills, on the western slopes, amidst wildflower meadows, springs [19] and a clear stream [20].



The local diarist Mary Hardy (1733-1809), aged 51, dressed for the Playhouse [19] at Holt. Her husband William was a farmer and brewer. Living a mile away at Letheringsett, she or her family came to Holt almost daily [by Hoagmer 1983; Cozens-Hardy Collection]

On the 16th March about 80 members of the Holt Society were treated to a fascinating talk by Margaret Bird on Mary Hardy's (1733-1809) Georgian Holt. This was a virtual walking tour with slides and an accompanying leaflet which started at the Feathers and Kings Head and ended with Spouts Hill and the Fram Beck.

Margaret opened her talk by dispelling some local myths, one of which was that Lord Nelson stayed at Nelson House. Mary Hardy kept diaries most of her life with wonderful detail on almost 13000 daily entries. Her husband William was a farmer and brewer and they lived in Letheringsett where the water for brewing was excellent, coming from the springs and clear stream of Spout Hills.

Holt was an important town then, being one of only four outside Norwich to host the county court sessions. It was renowned for its sample market in corn as well

There were 9 pubs in Holt in the late 18th and 19th century and William Hardy supplied 7 of them and Mary helped out. Imagine! 9 public houses for 1004 residents, many of whom were children! The leading inn was the Feathers which was both the post office and excise office as well as hiring post chaises. hosting bowls and other clubs. .

The tour took us round these inns and showed us some of the beautiful buildings which remain today although there is only The Feathers and The Kings Head which remain as pubs.

There is the Manor House which was started as a free grammar school in 1555 by Sir John Gresham after the dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry V111 which left the area without education. Sir John went on to become Lord Mayor of London where he forged close ties with the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers to whom he left the school in their care upon his death. This is the famous Greshams of today, and the Manor House is now Greshams Pre Prep.

Behind the White Lion (the building is much the same today although no longer a public house) was a barn which was used as a Playhouse, where the touring Scraggs Troupe often gave 3 performances of different plays a night during the

season. Mary and William Hardy spent many hours enjoying plays by Shakespeare and Sheridan, among others.

Onto Holt Church, where Mary Hardy was so inspired by the Evangelical sermons of George Barrs that she became an active Methodist which encouraged her grandson William to build the Methodist Church on Obelisk Plain while her children financed chapels which reached from Shirehall Plain and backing and fronting onto Albert Street.

Mary's daughter Mary Ann married Jeremiah Cozens and their only child William took the name Cozens Hardy, so the family line lives on today

There were 20 sites in Margaret Bird's tour, too many to mention but it showed Georgian Holt; a town of some consequence with 9 pubs, a free grammar school, corn markets, a playhouse, girls boarding school and a beautiful open space known as Spouts Hill; a truly lovely town with a great history.

The diaries are in the private Cozens Hardy Collection.

Margaret Bird has transcribed, edited, and transcribed the diaries in a book published by Burnham Press entitled *Mary Hardy and her World (1733-1809)*

Future Events planned for 2022

Friday April 8th 6pm for 6:30 pm

The Holt Society AGM. See attached notice.

Saturday May 28th 2pm – 5pm

The Dyson Building at Greshams School.

Talk by the Headmaster followed by a tour and light refreshments.

Pre Booking ONLY, NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED.

Sunday June 12th 2pm – 5pm

Hunworth Hall Garden, open by kind permission of Henry and Charlotte Crawley.

Tours of the garden and light refreshments.

Pre Booking ONLY, NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED.

Friday September 23rd from 10:30am

Cellars of Holt project launch with a tour of the cellars of Bakers & Larners.

Pre Booking ONLY, NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED.

December 2022- Date to be confirmed

Dr Sally Francis - Norfolk Saffron

Talk open to visitors.

Annual General Meeting

The Venue, Community Centre, Holt

April 8th 2022

Bar open 6.00pm

Business commences 6.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. No Minutes from previous AGM as not physically held. Three proposals sent to members to vote on.
 - Proposal 1 – To accept the Chairmans Report. Proposed Steve Benson/Seconded Keith Gosden/68 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
 - Proposal 2 – To accept the Treasurers Report. Proposed Tony Leech/Seconded Keith Gosden/68 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
 - Proposal 3 – To elect en bloc the officers listed in the accompanying Newsletter. Proposed Sue Wharfe/Seconded John Wharfe/68 For/0 Against/0 Abstentions
4. No matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Amendment to Constitution – On separate sheet attached/enclosed
7. Treasurer's Report – see overleaf
8. Election of Officers

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Keith Gosden	Tony Leech	Polly Binns
Vice-Chair	Tony Leech	Keith Gosden	Susan Williams
Hon. Secretary	Susan Williams	Corinne Matthews	Mary Alexander
Hon. Treasurer	Geoff Davis	Susan Williams	Steve Benson
Planning Officer	Vacant Position		
Membership Officer	Ken Jones	Steve Benson	Geoff Davis
Publicity Officer	Ken Jones	Geoff Davis	Tony Leech
Events Officer	Polly Binns	Ken Jones	Keith Gosden
Committee Member	Steve Benson	Polly Binns	Ken Jones
Committee Member	Vacant Position		

9. Any Other Business

Talk. Speaker – Douglas Robb, Headmaster, Gresham's School. Subject:- '*Gresham's and The Fishmongers' Company*'.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no buffet this year. Drinks are available to purchase at the bar and each table will have some nibbles.

The Holt Society
Summary Receipts & Payments Account

2021

1st January - 31st December

	<u>£</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Balance brought forward:			
01-Jan Barclays Bank	8,440.49		
242 Subscriptions (inc. 6 for 2022)	1,210.00	Holt Owl Trail website costs	92.92
2 Life Subscriptions	100.00	AGM printing and postage costs	103.26
5 Donations	41.00	Event booking deposits	116.08
47 copies of EIH	208.33	HS Website annual hosting fee	57.46
Dr Gillam's Talk - ticket sales	174.00	Ware Hall Event - refunds	150.00
MA&SB 'In Conversation' - ticket sales	202.00	Membership leaflets	43.50
<u>A Stroll Through Georgian Holt:</u>		Rebecca's Ring leaflets	31.50
Ticket sales & sales of 'Strolls'	228.00	Dr Gillam's Talk - wine and juice	55.91
		Dr Gillam - speakers fee/donation	100.00
		MA&SB 'In Conversation' - venue hire and gifts of wine etc.	144.06
		Membership cards	204.00
		Printing & Postage for September 2021 Newsletter	26.40
		Postage	47.88
		Biennial Domain Name Fee	31.18
		Square payment card reader	19.20
		Hamper for David Tomlinson	65.99
		Cancelled Xmas Party expenses	19.32
		Payment card charges	2.72
		<u>A Stroll Through Georgian Holt:</u>	
		Film production costs	2,181.60
		Launch Event costs	48.00
			2,229.60
		30-Dec Balance at Barclays	
		Bank	7,062.84
	10,603.82		10,603.82

Constitution

1 Name

The name of the Society shall be The Holt Society.

2 Objects

The objects of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means:

- a] To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Holt.
- b] To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the area of the town and its surroundings.
- c] To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.
- d] To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and publicity, and promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

3 Membership

Membership shall be open to all those who are interested in the aims of the Society. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

4 Subscriptions

The subscriptions shall be due **annually** in January.

5 Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about April each year to receive the Chairman's Report and accounts and to elect a **Chairman**, Officers and Members of the Committee **as set out in paragraph 6 below**. Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the request of ten or more members.

Ten members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Society

6 Executive Committee

The Society will be managed by a Chairman, seven Officers and two members, known as the Executive Committee as set out below:

Role	Max Term of Office	Frequency of Re-Election
Chairman	5 years	Annually at AGM
Vice Chairman	Unlimited	Annually at AGM
Honorary Secretary	Unlimited	At every alternate AGM
Honorary Treasurer	Unlimited	At every alternate AGM
Membership Officer	Unlimited	Annually at AGM
Planning Officer	Unlimited	Annually at AGM
Publicity Officer	Unlimited	Annually at AGM
Events Officer	Unlimited	Annually at AGM
Member	3 years	Annually at AGM
Member	3 years	Annually at AGM

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for running the affairs of the Society and may take decisions on its behalf.

A quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall consist of five, one of whom is the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

Nominations for the election of the Executive Committee must be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least seven days before the appropriate Annual General Meeting, supported by a Seconder and accompanied by written confirmation that the candidate will stand. If more than one candidate is proposed for the position of Chairman, an officer or member, a ballot of the Society's membership shall take place.

All members of the Executive Committee shall seek re-election annually at the AGM other than The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer who will seek re-election every other AGM to provide continuity and consistency.

The number of Committee Members elected at an Annual General Meeting shall be that number required to bring the total number to two. If more than this number of candidates is proposed, a ballot shall take place.

If a Member of the Executive Committee resigns during the year, or if insufficient Officers or Committee Members are elected at the AGM, Officers and /or Members may be co-opted by the Executive Committee. Anyone co-opted in this way must seek election at the next AGM and their term of office will commence from the date of that AGM.

7 Appeals

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make appeals, solicit donations and canvass monies for carrying out the objects of the Society.

8 Expenses of administration

The Executive Committee shall out of the monies received by the Society pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall use the residue of such monies as it thinks fit for or towards the objects of the Society.

9 Investment

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for the immediate application for its objects, shall be invested by the Executive Committee.

10 Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that ten day's notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided that nothing herein contained shall authorize any amendment permitting the expenditure of funds of the Society on any object which is not a charitable object.

11 Winding up

In the event of the winding up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charities having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as may be chosen by the Executive Committee.

END

Amended 28 April 1994

27 April 1998

23 October 2007

11 April 2018

8 April 2022