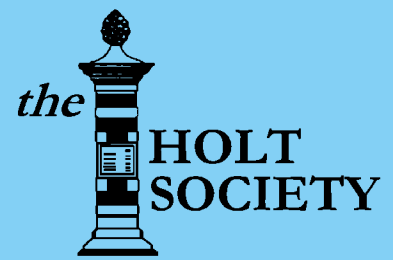


Newsletter February 2023



From the Chairman

With winter on the way out and Spring just around the corner we can all look forward to an increase in activity from the Society.

Prior to outlining this, I regret to announce that both Stephen and Catherine Hume, both past members of the Society's Committee, passed away on November 30th and January 4th respectively. Their joint funeral on January 14th was attended by many friends from the Society and beyond. Whilst the Humes did not have children, we do send our thoughts to their extended family and friends at this difficult time.

In our last Newsletter, November 2022, I advised you that our film *A Stroll Through Georgian Holt* had been accepted for inclusion in the East Anglian Film Archive (EAFA), subject to the final agreement being signed. I can now confirm that this process has been concluded and confirmation was received from the EAFA on January 4th – a great start to 2023!

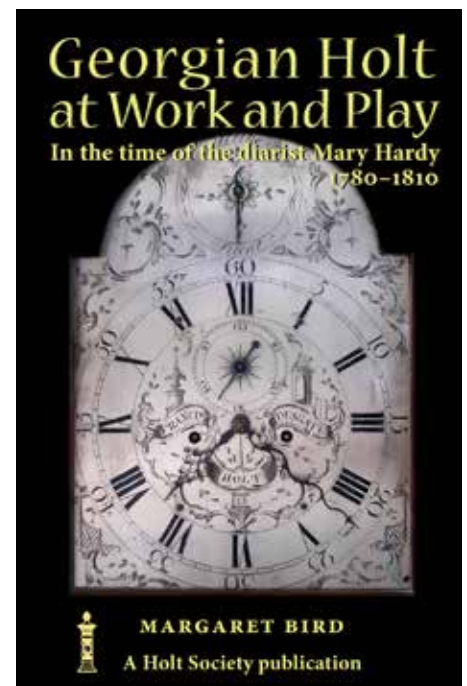
Some of you may recall that the Society sponsored a walking tour of Mary Hardy's Georgian Holt which formed part of the 2022 Holt Festival. In fact, we mentioned this on the cover page of the November Newsletter. The two walks were very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by those who were able to attend.

Unfortunately, for safety reasons, the numbers for the walks had to be limited, leaving some people disappointed. To compensate for this, after the walk I spoke to Margaret Bird, who both devised and led the walks, to see if, together, we could compile a booklet outlining the walk and her excellent commentary that could then be sold to a much wider audience.

I am delighted to say that with the help of our secretary Susan Williams and myself, Margaret was able to produce a wonderful 32-page booklet that the Society, as publishers, will be launching as part of our AGM on April 3rd. Margaret has also agreed to travel from her home in Kingston to sign copies on the night. The tempting cover is shown here and at just £5.00 the booklet will be on sale exclusively at the AGM. Then at local and hopefully regional book shops and other outlets.

Within this Newsletter is an updated schedule of Spring and Summer events which offer a wide selection of very interesting subjects. We do hope that some of you will be able to avail yourselves of these, especially given that Covid restrictions have been rescinded.

Thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you during 2023.



Susan with MP Duncan Baker, Claire Newstead, Chair, Friends of Astley Primary and her team

Escapades – update!

First of all a big thank you to all those who contributed to the production of the book and those who purchased copies for family and friends. It was a great success and encouraged a whole new audience to wander the streets of Holt and discover a little of its history mixed with a little magic. All profits from the book were either turned into additional books, which we have since donated to local primary schools and libraries from Wells, all the way through to Cromer, or in the form of cash donations for school projects.

To date, we have provided book tokens to Holt Primary School as prizes for a Holt Festival/Schools art project celebrating the work of John Craxton, donated book token prizes to support a schools art project at The Venue and donated funds to Astley Primary School for books for their newly refurbished library.

Saffron in Norfolk

December 5th 2022

I had the pleasure of attending a Holt Society talk by Dr Sally Francis, Saffron Grower here in North Norfolk. The smallholding is near Burnham Market and Sally started growing saffron after her mother Jill bought her 20 corms as a birthday present. Sally is an Oxford-educated PhD botanist. Her talk was full of enthusiasm and contained many previously unknown details and points of interest.

She explained the history of saffron and informed us that it has actually been grown in this area for many years. Fascinatingly, huge amounts were exported from North Norfolk ports in a highly lucrative trade to European low countries.

Sally's saffron growing became so successful that by 2009 they had too much for their own use so started to take it to Farmers Markets. This proved highly popular and the business has gone from strength to strength. Culminating with a now successful mail order business.

The first buds appear around May and establish themselves before the harvesting period, September to October which is very dependent on suitable weather conditions. For harvesting, the whole family get involved gathering the precious saffron. This process is time-consuming and delicate. The strands have to be dried before packaging.

Norfolk saffron has won many awards and has also featured in BBC productions and magazine articles.

Sally and her mother brought their saffron products to the talk and there was enthusiastic purchasing at the end with a free recipe to try Saffron Risotto.

You can find out more about Norfolk Saffron at norfolksaffron.co.uk

Anne Plumstead

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd 2023: 6pm to 8.30pm
The Venue, Holt Community Centre

The Discovery of the Gloucester 1682: a Well-kept Secret

Speaker: Julian Barnwell

In 1682 HMS Gloucester carrying James II was lost off the East Anglian coast. Discovered and the site secured in 2007 it was identified in 2012 and not until the June of 2022 was this made public. A well-kept secret indeed - come and find out more.



The Wreck of the Gloucester, Johan Dancketts (c1682). Credit: Royal Museums, Greenwich

MONDAY APRIL 3rd 2023: 6pm to 8.30pm
The Venue, Holt Community Centre

Holt Society AGM

Guest speaker: Michael Gurney DL, previous High Sheriff of Norfolk, who will speak on the history of his family and the work of a High Sheriff.

TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2023: 6pm to 8.30pm
St Andrews Church (members only)

News from the Pews

Speaker: Sue Smart

With details from the '1727 re-pewing' document and probate records, Sue will give a flavour of how Holt society looked just after the great fire.

Membership Renewal 2023

At this time of year, we hope to receive your membership renewal. This enables us to provide you with events, newsletters, publications whilst in the background striving to ensure that the heritage and character of Holt is maintained and where possible improved. Something that we know is important to you as members.

At just £5 per member, *that's less than the price of a couple of cups of coffee*, you can renew your membership thus ensuring that our work, on your behalf will continue. Many of you have already renewed via a standing order with your bank and we thank you for this. It really is appreciated by us, especially our Treasurer and Membership Officer!

For those who prefer to pay by cash or cheque we look forward to receiving your renewal. This can be sent to Keith Gosden, Hanworth House, 23 Cromer Road HOLT NR25 6EU. Cheques made payable to the Holt Society. For cash please ensure you include your name(s). Alternatively, if you have internet banking a Bank Transfer is quick and easy and details for this are given below:

Sort Code: 20-30-81 (Barclays Bank)

A/c: 90492655 (the Holt Society) **Ref:** *your surname or membership number*

Once again thank you to all our members as without your valued support our work, activities and publications simply would not be possible.

We need an active committee to

- Organise visits to places of interest
- Arrange talks from experts in their fields
- Monitor applications for planning and development
- Promote and protect the heritage and identity of Holt

We have vacancies and at the AGM in April we will lose some of our stalwart members. We are therefore looking to recruit new members.

The committee meets once a month and help each other deliver the activities and events that we all enjoy. If you are interested in joining us do please contact Keith Gosden, Chairman on 01263 711223.

We look forward to hearing from you.



MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM

The minutes of The Holt Society AGM 2022, held at The Venue, Community Centre, Holt, on Friday 8th April 2022.

The Chairman, Tony Leech, opened the meeting at 6:30pm, welcoming the 47 members present and tendered apologies from Duncan Baker MP, Susan Williams, Theo Crowder, Vic & Val Taylor, John Lintott, June Clarke, David & Eleanor Sidgwick, Tony Bushell, Robert & Michael Bullock, Terry Sands, Janet Gilling, David Sly Jex and Sue Rosser, 16 in all.

There were no minutes for the previous year, as the physical meeting was cancelled due to covid and replaced by a postal vote. There were no matters arising.

Tony Leech, as chairman gave his report in which he reiterated the aims of the Society and how these had been impacted by Covid. He outlined that two new Officer posts (Events Officer and Publicity Officer) have been proposed along with minor changes to the constitution, which was previously circulated. The revised constitution was approved.

It was noted that the Planning Officer was a vacant post and an invitation was extended to the membership for nominations. (*this was subsequently filled by Tim Bennett*)

Tony outlined the current projects being undertaken including the collection of data on the Cellars of Holt. Keith Gosden was then invited to outline the work that he and Steve Benson undertook to produce the film A Stroll through Georgian Holt. Keith presented Steve with an 'Oscar' for his role as presenter in the film. Tony thanked Steve, for all his contributions to the Society over the years.

Tony outlined the current project for the Queens Jubilee, the creation of two slates outlining the key events of her reign and those of Holt in the same period. He explained that a fundraising campaign was required to raise the £10k required.

Tony went on to close his report by saying "*I never intended to serve more than a couple of years as your chairman this time round. I have done three and am happy to hand over. My chairmanship has been considerably eased by the support from the Committee, particularly Susan Williams who, as well as keeping us on the straight and narrow, maintains the Society's website. If you are able to, please look at it. And Treasurer Geoff Davis who questions our ideas to spend money – and then says yes. I thank them all.*"

The next item on the agenda was the changes to The Society's Constitution, the Chairman explained the changes and the reasons for them. Kate Gosden proposed and Phil Barret seconded that the changes be adopted, this was voted on and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer gave his report. There were no questions, so they were proposed for adoption by Tony Leech and seconded by Bridget Cuthbert. This was voted on and carried unanimously.

The election of the Officers was approved as below;

Chairman - Keith Gosden; Vice Chairman - Tony Leech; Secretary - Susan Williams; Treasurer - Geoff Davis; Membership & Publicity - Ken Jones; Events - Polly Binns; Committee member - Steve Benson.

They were proposed en-bloc by Julie Alford and seconded by Peta Benson. This was voted on and carried unanimously.

After a short break, a talk was given by Douglas Robb on the subject of "Gresham's and The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers"

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Community Centre Holt

April 3rd 2023 6.30pm – 8.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM – 8th April 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report

		The Holt Society			
		Summary Receipts & Payments Account			
		2022			
		1st January - 31st December			
RECEIPTS		£	PAYMENTS		£
Balance brought forward:					
01-Jan	Barclays Bank	7,062.84			
			Jubilee Slates Donations passed to Holt Town Council		5,356.97
<u>Subscriptions & Donations</u>					
241 Subscriptions	1,205.00		<u>Event Costs</u>		
6 Donations	116.00		Speaker's fee		100.00
85 Jubilee Appeal donation	5,072.00		Catering etc. £262.17 + donation to Hunworth PCC £250.00	512.17	
		6,393.00	Cellars of Holt launch costs	51.68	
<u>Event Ticket Sales</u>					
Mary Hardy	367.00		Venue hire etc. + donation in lieu of speaker's fee	208.25	
Hunworth Hall	600.00		Venue hire and technical support	91.25	
Bakers & Larners Cellars	72.00				963.35
Norwich Castle	283.00		<u>Other Items</u>		
Saffron in Norfolk	221.00		Printing 500 copies of 'Work and Play in Georgian Holt'	625.00	
		1,543.00	Donations re Escapades	400.00	
<u>Book Sales</u>					
War-time & Post War Holt	81.00		Printing costs	229.29	
Glimpses	18.00		Sign for Jubilee Slates	215.03	
Other Items	14.50		Purchase of ISBN numbers	169.00	
		113.50	Printing 200 'Mary Hardy's Georgian Holt' guides	142.60	
			AGM costs	130.91	
			Stamps and envelopes for 2022 Jubilee Appeal	127.09	
			Donation to Holt Youth Project	100.00	
			Other items	716.05	
					2,854.97
			31-Dec	Balance at Barclays Bank	5,937.05
		<u>15,112.34</u>			<u>15,112.34</u>

6. Election of officers and Nominations for 'Vacant Positions' as set out below

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Keith Gosden	Tony Leech	Polly Binns
Vice-Chair	Tony Leech	Keith Gosden	Susan Williams
Hon. Secretary	Vacant Position		
Hon. Treasurer	Geoff Davis	<i>To be re-elected in 2024 as per constitution</i>	
Planning Officer	Tim Bennett	Tony Leech	Keith Gosden
Membership Officer	Robin Back	Tim Bennett	Tony Leech
Publicity Officer	Vacant Position		
Events Officer	Polly Binns	Tony Leech	Keith Gosden
Committee Member	Julie Goldsworthy	Keith Gosden	Polly Binns
Committee Member	Susan Williams	Steve Benson	Keith Gosden

7. GUEST SPEAKER – Michael Gurney DL, 'My family and the work of a High Sheriff'
8. Introduction of 'Georgian Holt at Work and Play' Chairman and Margaret Bird. Followed by a book signing