

## Neighbourhood Plan approved

We are delighted to report that Holt's Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 was approved on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Nearly 21% of the electorate took part in the referendum, with 552 votes (80.82%) in favour and 131 (19.18%) against. As a result, the Neighbourhood Plan has been passed and will form a valuable part of the future planning process.

## Young Expressionists

For the Art Outreach Programme of the 2023 Holt Festival, artist Mary Blue conceived the idea of involving local school children in an art activity related to an exhibition of *The German Expressionists & The Third Reich* which was to have taken place in the Meeting Room at St Andrew's Church. Unfortunately, the exhibition had to be postponed until 2024 because of illness, but the children's activity did take place.

After discussing examples of the work of the Expressionists with children at Astley Primary School,

*In the past few months, the Holt Society has been able to support two enjoyable and enriching activities that have benefitted many children.*



Phoebe. Reception, Holt Primary School.



challenge and from them a winner was chosen from each school, and 153 paintings were shortlisted for display in St Andrew's Church during Festival week. Standards were high and the diversity of colourful treatments of the theme was a delight to see.

The Holt Society donated art paper for the project so that the children could produce quality artwork that they could keep.

Holt Primary School, Wells Primary School, Alderman Peel High School and Sheringham High School, Mary inspired pupils to produce their own paintings. Over 650 children (aged 5 to 14 years) rose to this



Chelsea. Y10, Alderman Peel High School.



*Using surplus income from the hugely inspiring talk by Julian Barnwell, together with income from the sale of our children's book Escapades in Holt, the Holt Society has been able to pay all expenses for over 50 pupils from Years 3 and 5 Holt Primary School to visit The Last Voyage Of The Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682, an exhibition at Norwich Castle Museum.*



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

As the pupils walked across the bridge at Norwich Castle Museum they were greeted by the Museum Education Team who would be leading the activities which were to give them a terrific (and terrifying) experience of the 'Wreck of the Gloucester'.

This welcome set the tone for a day of fun and learning through a series of workshops prior to the visit into the actual exhibition. The children were divided into three groups so that they all experienced each workshop. One was with the seamstress of the *Gloucester*, a servant to James, Duke of York, whose name was never revealed. She explored with the pupils the notion of a party boat filled with the Duke's friends, for whom lavish food and drink was provided, luxurious clothing was maintained, music created and dancing enjoyed. Everyone was fascinated to hear and see what these privileged guests ate,

how they drank the finest wines of France and revelled. Whilst the music of the time was played, the children learnt a complex country dance, popular at the time.

Another workshop introduced the pilot of the *Gloucester*, Mr Ayres, who with the aid of a huge nautical map and model ships explained how the choice of the ship's course was so difficult and dangerous because of the sandbanks, winds and tides. Pupils were then invited to work out, using the fathom depths from the map, where the safest route lay. A great deal of

maths was applied, with excellent answers. Finally, with great gusto, through shouts, cries and wailing, the children enacted the storm

which brought disaster to the *Gloucester*. The museum's public

gallery fairly rang out with the tempest!

The final workshop was an opportunity to

## SHIPWRECKED!



Julian Barnwell spending time with the children.

handle and try out replicas of objects found from the wreck. This was all cleverly brought to life as, one by one, from a full-scale replica wooden trunk, the items were lifted out and passed around. The objects and trunk had been especially made for these educational sessions. Every child was able to explore all the items, some of which needed much explanation of their use, for example, the very heavy cannon balls. They were also able to recognise, and be intrigued to discover, objects very similar to those still used today. This session was led by an archaeologist who wonderfully extracted from the pupils their understanding of who were the people on board, whose objects these had been and so what might be learnt from their lives.

After lunch, the party was divided into two halves, one group watched an absorbing re-enactment of the trial of the pilot, Mr Ayres, who was found guilty of causing the loss of the ship. This drama also very subtly revealed how many souls were lost and how many were never identified as, at that time, they were not considered of any importance.

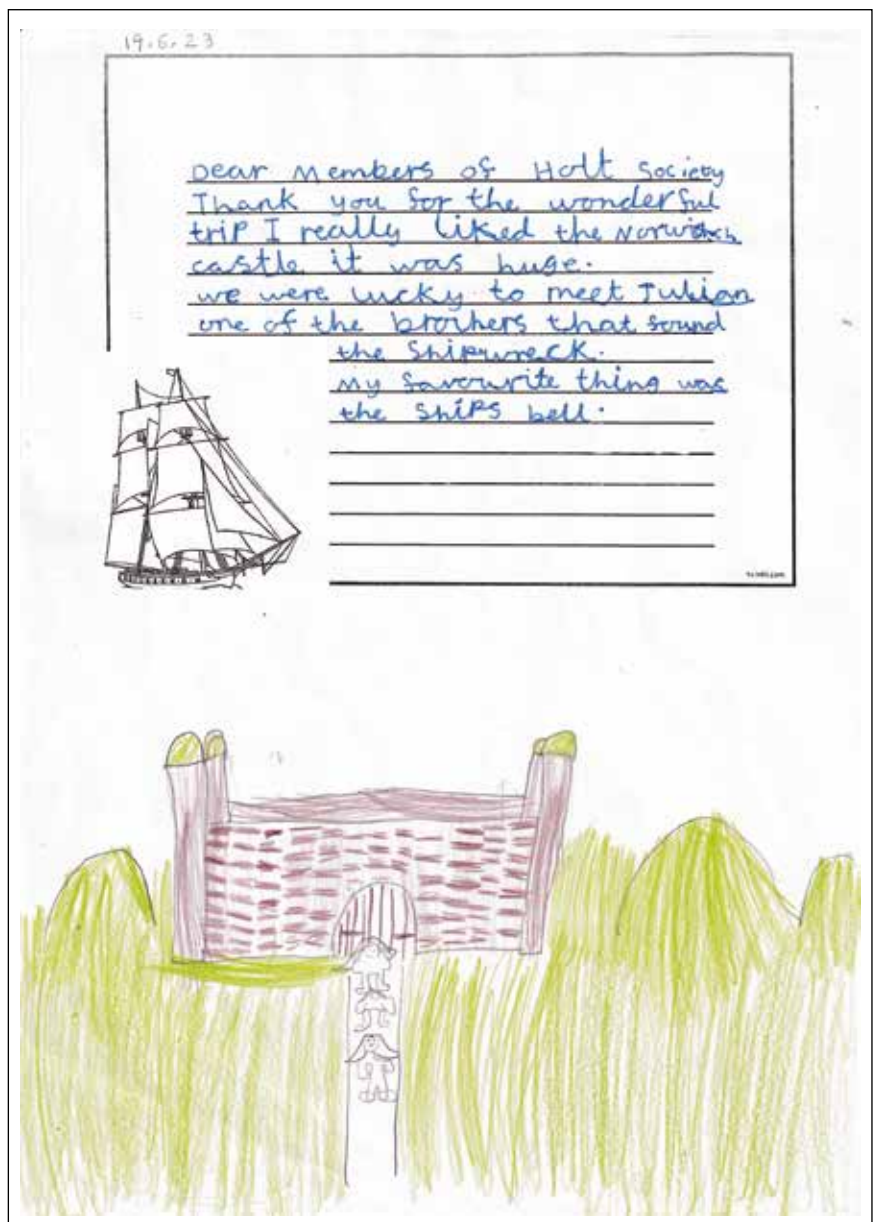
The other half visited the exhibition itself, where they were had a 'huge and unexpected' surprise! Julian Barnwell was there to greet them, to take them around the exhibition and watch the film with them. It was all a very exciting experience which he very generously repeated, in the same detail, with the second party. Originally, he had told Samantha Cole, the teacher leading the day, that he would be able to pop in just to say 'hello'. Instead he gave them the rest of the afternoon, answering many, many questions until it was time to go back on the coach and return to Holt. A very generous gesture which made the day very special.

## Following up

The Holt Society, represented by Keith Gosden (Chair) and Polly Binns (Events Committee Member), were delighted to be invited to a Celebration School Assembly, on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Along with

about 40 parents, they were treated to the children's responses, memories and reactions to their day at the exhibition. Every child had a part to play, relating to the many different experiences of the visit. The intricate dance, learnt in one of the workshops, was excellently performed and received with much applause, as was the whole presentation. The evident enjoyment of the pupils and their enthusiastic participation was a privilege to see. The Society has received a large number of 'thank you' letters, one of which is shown here. The full set will be held in our archive.

At the end of the visit, The Norwich Castle Museum gave every child a free re-entry ticket to the museum for use over the summer period. It is to be hoped that many of them will take that opportunity to return and to tell their families much about the wreck, learnt on that very special day.





## Around The Lowes

The weather may have been mostly dull but the 'walk and talk' was not. Tony Leech, our own Vice-chairman, met the group in Holt Country Park and pointed out the abundance of butterflies on the buddleia bushes. These included not only common species but White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries. Then on to Holt Lowes, an area of heathland, bog, fen and woodland just east of the Country Park. It is Common Land managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It may be a good area for exercising humans and dogs but the interest of the day was its wildlife.

Many plants which are scarce in Norfolk occur here, including Marsh Fragrant Orchid, Marsh Helleborine, Marsh Fern, Wood Horsetail and Lesser Skullcap. Tony showed us the tiny Round-leaved Sundew, one of three insectivorous plants in the valley mire.

After a wet summer, some of the smaller paths had become overgrown and in one place secateurs were employed. The culprit was the European Gorse, a native plant in its element on the porous heathland soil. The much scarcer Western Gorse is better behaved, flowering in late summer and growing only to small bush size.

We were told about Adders, still numerous if rarely seen, and that in recent years Grass Snakes had become abundant too. And about rare fungi.

Our thanks to Tony for this enlightening walk.

## A 'Refreshing' Sign

Whilst the Holt Society claim no credit for the repainting of this traditional traffic sign on the corner of Station Road and Holt Market Place, we are pleased to see it looking as it should. In the hope that those responsible will re-attach the finger directional/mileage signs, we have sent our old photo to the Town Council.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our next four events, taking us through to April 2024, are set out below. All booking information will be sent well before each event, so for now we are simply suggesting that you hold the date, in your diary.

### Holt Goes To Chelsea Flower Show.

OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 FRIDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.

A talk by Holt-based garden designers **Joe and Laura Carey** who triumphed not just with a Gold Medal but also Best in Show in their garden's respective category. Their garden included plants by Natural Surroundings and a sculpture by Teucer Wilson, names already very familiar to the Society.

### The Stained Glass Of The Parish Church of St Andrew, Holt – with Reference to the Hales Family Memorials.

DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 FRIDAY St Andrew's Church 10.30am for an 11.00am start.

A talk and viewing by **Dr. James Thomson**, retired consultant surgeon.

### Blickling – a Treasured Estate.

FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 FRIDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.

A talk by **Dr. Megan Dennis**, Property Curator at Blickling.

### Holt Society AGM

APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 MONDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.

Speaker to be confirmed.