

Holt goes to the Chelsea Flower Show

On Friday 20th October, over 70 Holt Society members, along with members of the public, braved the winds and rain of Storm Babet to listen to two young garden designers from Holt. They explained, with the help of both a slide presentation and a timelapse film, how they achieved at this year's Chelsea Flower Show the almost impossible task of winning not only a Gold Medal for their Talitha Arts Garden but also Best in Show for the category 'All About Plants Garden'. This was their first ever show garden, so to achieve this standard is a huge credit to their hard work and dedication.



Joe and Laura Carey, seen right, now live in Holt, having moved here from Luton. Three years ago they decided to change careers and make good use of their long-standing interest in garden design. Laura explained how she researched the most suitable plants for their garden to ensure that the planting worked in harmony with Joe's innovative garden design. Their knowledge and expertise came across so very clearly in their outline of how the concept of a show garden evolved into a design for a garden to help support Talitha Arts - a charity that uses the integrative arts to bring about transformation in the lives of those who have suffered trauma. In their words *'The garden is a celebration of the creative arts and their therapeutic power to restore lives and was generously funded by Project Giving Back, constructed and relocated by Landcraft'*.



The audience were treated to just over an hour presentation, with both Joe and Laura taking it in turns to bring their presentation to life with a style, both amusing and serious, that kept us wanting more. They explained how the concept evolved, how the build was created from an open grass area into which no digging was permitted, through to an award-winning garden containing nearly 1,000 potted plants and 250 beautifully white porcelain butterflies. These were hand-crafted by Japanese artist Naoko Tagai to pour from a large sculpted chrysalis made by Norfolk-based stone carver Teucer

Wilson. Many local businesses, including Holt Engineering, supported the project, ensuring that the environmental impact through transport and the chosen structural elements remained as low as possible. Even the stone chippings from the carving by Teucer were kept, crushed, and used to form the [continued]



pathway within the garden as seen here with the chrysalis in the background and the white butterflies to the front and right of the picture.

The finished garden was specifically designed to be relocated to a permanent location at St. Margaret's House in Bethnal Green - a centre for arts and wellbeing opportunities.

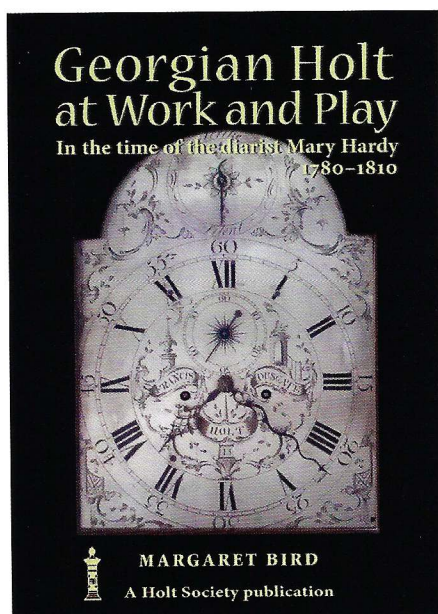
Talitha Arts base many of their activities at this venue and will continue to use the Chelsea garden for outreach performances and fundraising.

A well deserved vote of thanks was given by Polly Binns who organised the talk with support from the committee members.

Changes to your Committee

Since the AGM on 3rd April this year, there have been changes to the membership of your committee. I am delighted to say that Paul Plumstead, who previously supported us as Planning Officer, has now rejoined as a Committee Member filling the post vacated by Susan Williams. He is joined by his wife Anne who has also taken a position of Committee Member following the resignation of Julie Goldsworthy. We were very sad when Julie, who had only recently joined the committee, found that she really couldn't give the time that she felt the role warranted and therefore stepped aside. We thank her for all the support she has given to the Society and continues to do but, without the responsibility of being on the committee. I am also pleased to say that Michael Evans our Honorary Secretary has taken on responsibility for Publicity.

There will be two further changes at the AGM in April 2024. Polly Binns, Events Officer has given us such a wonderful array of social events over the years, ranging from the discovery of HMS Gloucester, through the production of saffron, to our most recent talk overleaf, will be leaving the Committee at the AGM. Polly will be a hard act to follow but if you are interested in taking on this important role and would like further information do, please contact her by email at pollybinns1@gmail.com. If it would help any transfer of responsibilities a new prospective Officer can work alongside Polly leading up to the AGM when their nomination will be put to the membership.



Finally, I as your chairman will also be standing aside at the AGM but will be happy to remain on the Committee if successfully nominated. I have served you as Chair for two very full years and having now taken on further responsibilities within my Magisterial role I feel it is the right time to stand aside. I have advised the Committee members of my decision in the hope that they can make suitable arrangements prior to the AGM nomination process. I thank you all, as members, for the generous support you have shown over the last years whilst I have been on the Committee, firstly, as membership Officer and latterly as Chair. I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and honour to work with you all, especially the Committee members both past and present.

Interest and sales increase for *Georgian Holt at Work and Play* booklet

Our latest publication is in demand with sales being maintained both direct from the Society and via the Holt Book Shop. The booklet is still being promoted,

the most recent being alongside a showing of our film *A Stroll through Georgian Holt* to the Sheringham U3A (University of the Third Age) on the 2nd of November. At just £5.00 the booklet will make an excellent Christmas stocking filler!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

Postponed until 2024. It is hoped that an alternative speaker can be arranged for Dec. 15th. Details to follow.

Blickling – a Treasured Estate.

FEBRUARY 9th 2024 FRIDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.

A talk by **Dr. Megan Dennis**, Property Curator at Blickling. Booking details to follow

Holt Society AGM (members only) followed by a Talk (members and guests).

APRIL 8th 2024 MONDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.- members only.

Guests are welcome to join us at 7pm for 7.30pm for a talk by Claire Roberts of Holt & District Dementia Support.

