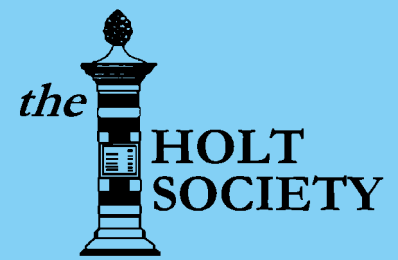


Newsletter January 2024



We hope that you and your loved ones, enjoyed both the Christmas and the New Year festivities. With these now becoming a distant memory, it is good to know that, as a member of the Society, there are a number of Events to look forward to in 2024. The upcoming ones are outlined in this Newsletter. Where full details are not included here, these will be circulated nearer the time. May I also please ask that if you are booking tickets, for one of our events, can you in the first instance, contact our Events Coordinator, Polly Binns, prior to making any payment, to ensure spaces are still available.

Keith Gosden

Lynda has Something to Say

Just prior to Christmas, I received an email from Lynda Turbet, a member of the Holt Society and a name many of you will recognise, as she was the author of our Christmas book *Escapades in Holt* a few years ago. Lynda, who has lived with Motor Neurone Disease since 2016, asked if I, as Chairman, would make an exception to our longstanding decision not to canvas our membership, on behalf of other people for donations etc. Having consulted the wider committee, and given that Lynda's poetry book *Something to Say* is helping to fund the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, a very worthy cause, we agreed to include details in this Newsletter.

Lynda has had her works published in print, in online journals and anthologies, whilst also winning several prizes. Her current, 46 page poetry book, *Something To Say*, is on sale through Holt Bookshop for just £8.00, raising valuable income for research. All of the sale income of her book, from Holt Bookshop is being passed to Lynda who sends it to the MNDA. We hope that you will feel able to support Lynda, through purchasing her book, shown above. However, if you would like to simply make a donation, without purchasing her book, you can send cash or cheques, made payable to MND Association, to Lynda Turbett at 24 Cley Road, Holt, NR25 6JG. Alternatively you can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/page/somethingtosay. Other ways to donate can also be found at <https://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/fundraising/pay-in-your-fundraising-money>

We wish Lynda success in her fundraising and are pleased to be of some support.



Looking after Norfolk's Churches

A talk on the work of the Norfolk Churches Trust by Dr John Maddison

On Friday 15th December, more than 40 of our members had the opportunity to learn about the rich array of Norfolk's churches. Dr John Maddison, chairman of the Norfolk Churches Trust, told us that there were some 640 churches in the Norwich diocese, and that Norfolk had the largest number of medieval churches in the world. Norwich, for instance, once had 57 churches within its city walls, although there are now only 31.



In a fascinating talk, supported by a wonderful array of slides, he pointed out that, in spite of commonly held misconceptions, churches were not all owned and funded by some external body but, in most cases, they belonged to their congregations who were responsible for upkeep and care.

These churches, Dr Maddison stressed, contain a wide array of works of art and craftsmanship, including stained-glass windows, painted screens, statues and carved woodwork, many of which date back hundreds of years. Together they represent an important legacy for future generations.

The Norfolk Churches Trust began in 1976 with a £300 loan from the Norwich Society. Since then, grants totalling over £6.5 million have been awarded to needy churches. In the last financial year, the Trust awarded grants to 41 churches totalling £171,825.

We were advised that the major fundraising initiatives of the Trust, are the annual cycle ride and the Stately Car Boot Sale, although bequests also play an important part.

Churches, we were told, belong to everyone – they are part of our heritage, and we were invited to consider becoming members of the Norfolk Churches Trust. A vote of thanks was given by our Events Organiser, Polly Binns.

A message from Polly

Members will be aware that I am leaving the committee from the next AGM and therefore the post of Events Organiser is vacant. It is a big job but also immensely enjoyable and has proved to be a fantastic way to get to know our members.

There is the one committee position, but the role would work well done by two people, one as programmer and planner and the second as event manager.

If anyone is interested in standing and would like to know more about how it currently works or has ideas for change, please do get in touch.

Pollybinns1@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Blickling – a Treasured Estate

FEBRUARY 9th 2024 FRIDAY The Venue, 6pm for 6.30pm.
A talk by **Dr. Megan Dennis**, Property Curator at Blickling.



Philip Kerr, 11th Marquess of Lothian and former owner of the National Trust's Blickling Estate, described in 1937 the country houses of Britain, as a "treasure of quiet beauty". Today at Blickling we view the estate as, a box of delights, and a space where many, not just the privileged few, can celebrate engagement with culture, history and nature.

In this talk, Dr Dennis will describe the history and collections of the estate and introduce the fine art and furniture of the hall whilst also exploring the social, natural and landscape histories of the 4600 acre estate that really is quintessential Norfolk. Bought and re-created by Henry Hobart in 1616 as a place of innovation, prestige and power, the crumbling mansion of the Boleyn family was to become a Jacobean architectural gem and established the Hobart family's dynastic seat. Supported and saved by local communities several times during its 400 year history, the estate is now a 'must-see' for tourists, and a place of belonging and pride for those living nearby.

Above all, Dr Dennis will examine the opportunities the estate creates for connection - to people, place and collections of the past and today. By enabling these connections, Blickling becomes more treasured than ever.

Booking details will be circulated.

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.