

# The Holkham Gazette

## The new car park in Wells and the impact on local charities explained

BY DAVID HORTON-FAWKES,  
ESTATES DIRECTOR

Holkham has started building the first phase of a new car park on Freeman Street in Wells-next-the-Sea. The popular seaside town has seen a yearly increase in the number of visitors recently and the town's infrastructure is beginning to sink under the sheer numbers of people and their cars.

Once the Beach Road car park is full, overflow space has been found on the football field and Holkham has offered extra space to be used on the pitch and putt area. Members of various Wells charities have manned the overflow car park on busy summer weekends and in return each charity has received a share of the proceeds at the end of the summer. This has been a significant amount of money for many of the charities which would otherwise have had to close their operation due to lack of funds.

A further third of the money has gone to Wells town council, which has meant that the precept charged to each town dweller and collected through the council tax has remained low. However, the plans for car parking and the concern felt in Wells about the impact these plans will have on local charities needs to be addressed. This article identifies what is planned, how much it will cost and where the money will go.

A report for Wells Town Council estimated that 75% of Wells' income is generated by visitors and it is predicted that visitor numbers will continue to grow by 4% every year, so the parking problem is only going to get worse. Because Holkham owns most of the land around the town, the estate is inevitably asked to come up with a solution and the estate is in constant dialogue with the town and district councils.

As visitor numbers have grown, parking in Wells has become increasingly difficult and during the summer the town often grinds to a standstill. This is disruptive for residents and difficult for businesses. It is also dangerous because emergency access routes become blocked and drivers get frustrated, leading to frequent instances of abuse and occasional violence towards our employees who manage the traffic.

Park and Ride is often proposed as a solution and it would be the ideal if it worked. However, Park and Ride only works in locations (Norwich, Bath, Oxford) where it is in use every day of the year. When Park and Ride has been tried in seasonal locations, visitors still try and drive into town



The new car park in Wells-next-the-Sea under construction. Inset: One of the two lagoons that have been created on the site. When the building works are finished these will be landscaped and planted up to serve as wildlife areas

centres on the 'off-chance' that they will find a space and this has led to the failure of schemes in places like Gloucester and Maidstone.

In recent years cars have been parked on the area around the football field. In 2012 the town council and Holkham Estate placed a bridge from the football field to the former pitch and putt area, in order to cope with more traffic. We did this as an emergency measure to cope with the cars but the bridge only has temporary planning consent. The district council and bodies concerned with the landscape want to keep cars out of sight and it is for that reason that permanent permission to park beside the Beach Road has been resisted.

On busy days we know that more than 1,000 cars try to visit Wells. The money from parking around the football field and on the pitch and putt is shared between the town council, Holkham (30%) and local charities who manage the parking on weekends and bank holidays. The total amount generated for the charities was £32,642 in 2013.

In 2013 the town lost the coach park to the Co-op and the district council asked Holkham estate to build the car park and coach park at Freeman Street, which received planning consent in 2010. However it was a condition of the Freeman Street planning consent that car parking around the football field stopped when the Freeman Street car park was built.

Freeman Street car park will take about 400 cars. It has an elaborate scheme designed to reduce the

visual impact for residents of Mainsail Yard. The total cost of the scheme is £597,000 but Freeman Street is not big enough to accommodate all the cars coming to Wells, most of which want to get to the beach. Therefore we will be seeking a further consent to take cars through the new car park and over the old sea wall so that visitors can either walk back into the town or down to Wells beach. This will reduce the traffic on Beach Road and, most importantly, deal with the dangerous access to the football field, which will then be closed to traffic, except footballers.

Parking fees will apply and these will be used to pay for the new car park. This will reduce income to the town council but in 2016 the charities that benefited from the parking receipts are invited to write to the estate to apply for a share of the monies that we generate every year for various charities. To find out how to apply please visit the relevant pages on our website at [www.holkham.co.uk/about-us/responsible-business/charities](http://www.holkham.co.uk/about-us/responsible-business/charities). For some years this fund has supported numerous local initiatives, as many long term residents will know.

We need local support to continue to park cars beside the Beach Road. We know that it will only be used for a few days every year but it provides a vital safety valve that will keep traffic flowing and Beach Road clear for emergency access.

Any suggestions, observations or ideas are most welcome. You can contact the estate by email on [enquiries@holkham.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@holkham.co.uk).

### Raising funds for St Withburga's

Fundraising for ongoing maintenance at St Withburga's church on the estate is a year round task. It is with great delight that we can thank Nicky Milner and her supporters who again organised the raffle to benefit St Withburga's this year. As well as doing lots of ticket selling at two big public events at Holkham this summer, the Country Fair and the North Norfolk Food and Drink Festival, Nicky also co-ordinated all the prizes, including a day's shooting with Lord Leicester as the top prize. She organised the printing of tickets and made sure that the whole effort went as smoothly as possible. So far over £5000 has been raised, which is fantastic.

### Castle Acre now gets the Gazette!

Welcome to new readers of the Holkham Gazette in Castle Acre. The newsletter is now delivered free to each house in the village where we have several tenants. We hope you find items of interest in each issue.





## 'Beyond the Walls' project at Holkham walled garden



Some of the landscape team and volunteers with a lot of planting to do!

BY HELEN GILES, PROJECT MANAGER

There are exciting times ahead for Holkham's six acre walled garden. Following the award of development funding of £84,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, our ambitious 'Beyond the Walls' project has well and truly begun!

Holkham Walled Garden Ltd, a not for profit organisation, has been set up to take this project forward. We will transform and conserve the beautiful walled garden for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Over the past few years the team at Holkham, supported by a dedicated group of volunteers, has done a great job of improving the visual appeal of the garden, with new planting, extensive mulching, path laying and projects with local schools. However, there is still much to do.

### What's it all about?

Our aim is to transform the walled garden into a heritage venue which is more attractive, accessible and engaging and to create a world-class location where visitors and the local community can explore and enjoy its fascinating history and be inspired by the garden and the many activities that will take place within.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant is enabling the dedicated team to further develop their plans and to research the historic significance of the garden, look into how it can be more accessible and explore possibilities to create a new interpretation in and around the garden.

We will be talking to visitors, volunteers and the local community about what they want to see and enjoy. We will also explore ways of raising much-needed funds to take the project to the next level.

In August 2016, we will be submitting our next round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders, to take all the plans forward and undertake the work. The total cost of this ambitious project is estimated to be £3.5 million.

### Get involved

If you would like to volunteer in the walled garden or help with other aspects of our exciting project, please contact Dene Wood, head of park and gardens, by email at [d.wood@holkham.co.uk](mailto:d.wood@holkham.co.uk)

### Do you have a story to tell?

If you have a story to tell about the heritage of the walled garden, we would love to hear from you. Maybe a relative worked here or you can remember the garden in its former glory. Please contact our Project Manager, Helen Giles by email at [h.giles@holkham.co.uk](mailto:h.giles@holkham.co.uk). To find out more and keep up to date with the 'Beyond the Walls' project, please follow us on Facebook Holkham Walled Garden and Twitter @HolkhamWG. We have a new website coming soon!



## Convenience at last!

Pupils and school cook, Mrs Edwards, at Holkham village school in the 1950s



The outbuilding that previously served as the lavatory block for the old Holkham village school has recently been modernised and brought back into use as public lavatories, open from 9am to 6pm every day.

Carol Cox, a former pupil and Holkham village resident, recalls: "I started at Holkham village school in 1950 when this outbuilding was the lavatory block. The lavatories were only used by the teachers and the girls, as the boy's block was over the other side, behind the school building. The lavatories were very old-fashioned, with just a wooden seat and a bucket underneath and would have to be emptied by hand, usually twice a week."

### Earth closets

In the early 20th century earth closets were the usual form of sanitation. Dry earth or peat was dispensed by a hopper at the back of the lavatory seat and a removable bucket placed below for emptying. The resulting manure was used on the land. Mains water only reached Holkham village in the 1960s and the village school closed shortly afterwards in 1965.

### Wastewater treatment

In 2006 a modern solution to the disposal of waste water was commissioned by Holkham in the form of a wastewater treatment plant to serve The Victoria and Holkham village and it has been treating sewage since then with almost no significant ongoing operating costs. The appeal of the treatment plant was low energy, no sludge or odour and effluent water of a quality appropriate for either discharge or potential irrigation reuse on Holkham's land. The estate elected to use the windpowered system to keep ongoing operating and total lifetime expenses to a minimum.

## Congratulations to Jon Smith and the Belted Galloway herd

Holkham stockman Jon Smith was proud and delighted to receive first prize at the 2015 Royal Norfolk Show for his Belted Galloway cow and calf. The animals were first introduced as a small breeding herd at Holkham in 2013.



Stockman Jon Smith and Christopher 'Billy' Cooke with the prize-winning cow and calf



## Holkham and Wells create a dementia friendly community

The Wells Dementia Friendly Community (WDFC) steering committee met recently following the successful launch of the project earlier this year. This committee comprises representatives from businesses in Wells, the police, Heritage House, Wells Community Hospital Trust, the Holkham Estate and Age UK. Those businesses who attended the initial training will display window stickers indicating that they are dementia friendly and another training session will be scheduled before the end of this year.

The plan is to formalise the group which will enable it to apply for funding for projects to achieve its aim of making Wells-next-the-Sea a dementia friendly community. This will enable people with dementia and their carers to feel happy, secure and comfortable and continue to be a vital part of the community in which they live or where they come to spend their holidays.

Top of the agenda is to secure an Admiral Nurse for north Norfolk, as the area currently does not have one of these specialist nurses. Admiral Nurses give much needed practical and emotional support to family carers, as well as to people with dementia. They offer support to families throughout their experience of dementia that is tailored to the families' individual needs and challenges. The nurses provide families with the knowledge to understand the condition and its effects and the skills and tools to improve communication. They also provide emotional and psychological support to help family carers carry on looking after their family member.

Holkham will be holding a Memory Walk in 2016 to raise awareness of dementia and the dementia friendly community in Wells and also to raise funds for the local group and for a world without dementia.

## Holkham contributes to Seaside's success

Two new dugouts are being built at Wells-next-the-Sea's football club thanks, in part, to a monetary contribution from Holkham. There are also two new advertising boards at the edge of the pitch, one for the estate and one for the Beach Café. Alan Miller, Holkham's Business Development Manager, used to play in goal for Arsenal and he is the initiator of the current involvement of the estate with the club. It's not the first time that Holkham has helped the football club, known locally as the Seaside. Lord Leicester has been very supportive over the years, especially of the junior teams.



## What's on locally...

As the season winds down, there are still events to attend.

### Walking Women

Holkham Park. Meet at the ticket office.  
Tuesday 6th October.

### Deer Discovery Walk

Learn more about the deer herd in Holkham park.  
Wednesday 7th, 14th October.

### Deer Safari

Saturday 10th and 24th October.

### Autumn Tours of the Private Gardens

Sunday 18th October.  
Walking With The Wounded Walk of Britain  
See article right.  
Monday 19th October.

### Guided Walk on the National Nature Reserve

Tuesday 20th October.

### Chamber Music Concert – Elizabeth Watts and Julius Drake

Friday 23rd October.

### Halloween at Holkham

Sunday 25th to Saturday 31st October.

### Walking Women

Wells. Meet at Beach Road car park  
Tuesday 3rd November.

### Chamber Music Concert – Doric String Quartet

Saturday 15th November.

### Walking Women

Wells. Meet at Beach Road car park  
Tuesday 1st December.

### Diva Opera – The Night Before Christmas

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th December.

### Wells Christmas Tide Festival

Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th December.

### Christmas Theatre in the Marble Hall

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December.

### An Audience with Father Christmas

Friday 18th to Monday 21st December.

For more information about Holkham events go to [www.holkham.co.uk](http://www.holkham.co.uk)

## A wide variety of moths on the National Nature Reserve

BY SARAH HENDERSON, CONSERVATION MANAGER

Holkham National Nature Reserve is famous for its many and varied birds but it is also home to a range of other wildlife, some of which is often overlooked. Due to their tendency towards nocturnal activity it is quite easy to be unaware of the number of moths that are out there, in fact there are around 2,500 species of moth in the UK.

Every month since April this year moth traps have been placed out on the reserve and the following morning, with some excitement, the traps are opened and the moths identified and released. This is easier said than done as many moths, especially the micro-moths, are tricky to identify, but luckily we have been helped by some local moth experts. So far around 300 species of moth have been recorded on the reserve.

Many moths have exquisite markings with subtle colourations. One such is the Green-Brindled Crescent, whilst others such as the Garden Tiger Moth are striking and bold in appearance. Moths are vulnerable to predation and the various markings are a defence mechanism. Many moths are marked in drab browns and greys so they blend in with tree trunks when resting. Others have evolved elaborate strategies to fool predators. The Buff-Tip looks like a broken twig, the Chinese Character resembles a bird dropping whilst the Scalloped Hook-Tip looks like a dead leaf, none of which would be appealing to a hungry predator. The Hornet Moth, predictably, looks like a hornet, which is enough to keep everything at a distance.

Ivy blossom, which flowers in the autumn, is a very valuable late nectar source for moths and other insects. Other plants that can attract moths to the garden include tobacco plants, evening primrose, night-scented stock and honeysuckle.



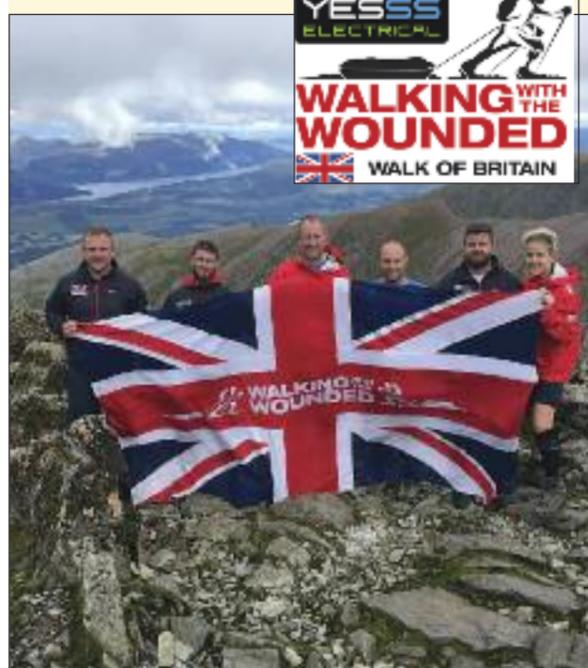
The Hornet Moth

Photograph © Andrew Bloomfield

## Walking With The Wounded Walk of Britain

The Walk of Britain expedition will see four British and two US wounded veterans walk 1,000 miles across mainland Britain. They started in Scotland on 22nd August and they aim to finish at Buckingham Palace on 1st November. On Monday 19th October the team will walk through north Norfolk from Hunstanton via Thornham and Burnham Market, arriving at Holkham Hall at approximately 4.30pm. You are welcome to come and cheer their arrival.

If you would like to donate visit their Virgin Money Giving page, or go to the website at [www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk](http://www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk) to see how else you can help.



## Exclusive print for Holkham

Pressed flower artist Helen McConnell, who lives in Wells, has spent an enjoyable summer picking and pressing flowers from the walled garden and from around the Holkham Estate. Once the petals and grasses are pressed and dried, Helen will create a special picture reflecting the beauty and diversity of the Holkham environment.

The original picture, and an exclusive limited edition of prints, will be on sale to celebrate the launch of Holkham's new gift shop when it opens in March 2016.



# HALLOWEEN at HOLKHAM

Sunday 25th to  
Saturday 31st  
October  
10am-5pm

There will be tricks and treats, adventures and plenty of fun for all the family. Dress for the occasion and be prepared for thrills galore as the hall and the walled garden are taken over by all things 'spooktacular' this Halloween!

#### Spellbinding Tales

Let our storyteller enthrall you with a mesmerising tale, guaranteed to capture your imagination.

#### It's Pumpkin Playtime

There's fun and games to enjoy and a chance to carve your own pumpkin. Get gory grazes and weeping wounds with our face painting. Come dressed for the occasion and join in the fancy dress parade. With craft activities and pumpkin trails, you'll be in for a treat!

#### Tricks and Treats in Holkham Hall

Join in the fun and get hands-on with Kiddy Cook in the Old Kitchen. We're sure your creation will be terrifyingly tasty!

Magical gourds and fungi will set the scene while you increase your knowledge of scary spiders and bewitching bats with our frightening factoids. Creative crafts will make it a spooky time!

#### The Halloween Express

Start your eerie adventures and hop on board our tractor trailer ride as we take you to the walled garden.

#### Tickets

Hall and Walled Garden, available Sunday, Monday and Thursday: Adult £12, Child (ages 2-16 years) £6, Family (2 adults and 3 children) £33.

Walled Garden, available every day: Adult £2.50, Child (ages 2-16 years) £1.

NB additional charges apply for face painting, pumpkin carving and the Halloween Express.

Combined Hall and Walled Garden tickets are available to pre-book online with a 10% discount and are available on Sunday, Monday and Thursday.

Hall and Walled Garden tickets are also available to buy on arrival at Holkham from our ticket office (discount does not apply). Walled

Garden only tickets are available to buy on arrival at Holkham from our ticket office and are available every day.

## Make Christmas Special

Join in the festivities as we open the doors of Holkham Hall for our seasonal celebrations in December.

#### The Night Before Christmas

On Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December at 7pm Diva Opera will present *The Night Before Christmas* – a delightful mix of carols, songs, operatic arias, readings and dances that will lead you into the festive season. This show, with its festive theme and joyful music, has great appeal and should not be missed. Fully staged in Diva Opera's stunning period costume.

#### Christmas Theatre – A Christmas Carol

Then on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December you can be entertained by Christmas Theatre in the Marble Hall with the perennial favourite *A Christmas Carol*, staged by Rain or Shine Theatre Company. A host of Dickens' charming and comical characters bring the story to life with energy and wit. Festive audiences are invited to share in Scrooge's journey, as he travels with the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future to discover a life changing meaning to Christmas. Set in authentic Victorian costume, with a cast of five playing a whole host of characters, and with surprises throughout, Rain or Shine aims to delight and enchant those new to the tale and those who already know it. This family show is suitable for everyone aged 7 to 97. Perfect festive entertainment for young and old.

#### An Audience with Father Christmas

As the big day approaches join us for our special *Audience with Father Christmas* as he stops off during his busy schedule to entertain children in the Saloon at Holkham Hall from Friday 18th to Monday 21st December. It's a chance to listen to tales of

wonderment and to meet Father and Mother Christmas and our band of cheeky elves too, whose infectious Christmas spirit will welcome one and all. We will have a present for all of our younger visitors to add to their excitement. Your ticket includes a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink plus a festive biscuit. You will have the chance to browse our Christmas pop-up shop after the performance for last-minute presents and festive treats. An Audience with Father Christmas lasts approximately 50 minutes.

Full details of all Christmas events, performances and how to book tickets are available on the Holkham website – [www.holkham.co.uk](http://www.holkham.co.uk).



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