

The Holkham Gazette

No more nudism on Holkham beach

BY SARAH HENDERSON, NATURE RESERVE MANAGER

The wide expanse of sand at Holkham beach, one of the glories of the north Norfolk coast, is enjoyed by walkers and horse riders throughout the year. It provides nesting areas for little terns and ringed plovers, major Hollywood and UK films have been shot here (who can forget Gwyneth Paltrow striding up the beach towards the pine trees at the end of *Shakespeare in Love*), and the breathtaking space has featured as the background to many advertisements. Until earlier this year it was also a naturist beach.

Naturists have had a long history of using Holkham beach, so it was with great regret that the decision to ban naturism was taken at the beginning of July this year.

For over 30 years the beach has welcomed naturists, but over that time there have been intermittent problems with inappropriate behaviour. Numerous attempts have been made to stop the problems, including increased patrolling by the beach wardens and even excluding people from the dunes.

Unfortunately all strategies ultimately failed, despite the best efforts of Holkham staff and the police. In recent years problems have increased dramatically, probably due to the influence of the internet which promotes and facilitates the unwelcome behaviour. People have been travelling considerable distances to take part in indecent acts



and much of this lewd behaviour took place quite openly in the dunes, so anyone, including children, walking through the area would have been able to see what was happening. In addition men would proposition not only naturists but anyone else who happened to be walking nearby. This made many visitors feel uncomfortable about using the naturist section of the beach and they stopped walking there. Naturists didn't like being propositioned either so they moved outside the designated area which caused further problems.

An estimated half a million people visit Holkham National Nature Reserve each year and the estate has a duty of care which extends to ensuring visitors are not harassed, distressed or alarmed. Over the summer

of 2012 our wardens encountered people indulging in inappropriate behaviour on average twice a week. Many additional complaints were received from visitors, one of which led to a prosecution. It became clear that although true naturists do not cause problems, a naturist beach inevitably attracts people who do indecent acts. With the increase in people misusing the naturist beach for this sort of behaviour, the estate felt that there was no option left but to take decisive action and ban all naturism.

Since introducing the ban on 1st July we have had the hottest summer for a long time – ideal weather to get an all over tan! However, with the local and national publicity the ban received, many people were aware of the change in policy and stayed away. Consequently, there have been far fewer incidents of indecent behaviour, compared with last year. Staff still patrol on a regular basis and whilst it is disappointing to find some people ignoring the ban, by and large there has been a good deal of co-operation.

We have received much local support since the ban has been introduced and the absence of the human 'meerkats' along the tops of the dunes has resulted in many people happy to use the western end of Holkham beach once again.

HALLOWEEN HORRORS

Sunday 27th to Thursday 31st October, 10am to 5pm, have a scarily good time at Holkham this Halloween!

Terrifying Times in the Bygones Museum

Cobwebs, spiders and creepy crawlies lurk in the museum's corridors where mad scientists are busy mixing their potions, spells, slime and smells, creating a horrifying hair-raising experience. Our weird and wonderful crafts will ensure you take away a spine-chilling memento.

'A-maze-ing' Webs in the Walled Gardens

It's amazing! Time to explore the giant web 'maze' woven on the grass and join in our spider hunt.

Holkham Hall's Arachnid Factoids

Holkham Hall is open 27th, 28th and 31st October, 12noon to 4pm Discover spooky spidery facts and shocking body parts to help you make your very own scary spider.

Gory Fun in the Courtyard

Join in our fancy dress parade. Get gory grazes and weeping wounds with our face painting, or test your powers of pumpkin carving.

Tickets

For more information, or to book tickets, visit www.holkham.co.uk



Halloween Theatre

Her Lady's Revenge

Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October 6pm and 8pm

Mystery, mayhem and murder at Holkham Hall. A house left empty, a family ripped apart, four murders and a missing heir to the estate. What happened 100 years ago?

Join us at Halloween for this dramatic and haunting experience. Watch in horror as the truth is played out in front of your eyes. *Her Lady's Revenge* takes place in the Stables Café and Bygones Museum.

Tickets £18 include a glass of wine and canapés. Available from our Ticket Office, telephone 01328 713111. Recommended age 14 years plus.



Keeping the beer flowing – the barley supply chain from field to brewery

Holkham has entered into an exclusive deal with Southwold-based brewer Adnams to supply approximately 50% of the malt used by the brewery for brewing and distilling over the next three years.

This approach to local sustainability of supply of good quality barley from field to brewery has been driven by Boortmalt, a leading maltster based in Bury St Edmunds. Boortmalt has a longstanding relationship with Adnams and the two companies worked together to source a local supply of quality malting barley – fundamental to the key values held by Adnams.

Now that the malting barley harvest is finished it is clear that this has been a good year. Sarah Brown, Commercial Manager of Boortmalt said “Holkham Estate operates an efficient and very productive farming business heavily focused on good environmental practice and reducing its carbon footprint through continuous improvement of farming techniques. This provides an ideal platform for this agreement between farmer, maltster and brewer with Adnams’ objectives heavily focused on sustainability”.

Adnams is committed to producing quality products sustainably for long term success. The relationship with Holkham means that the company can increase the transparency of its supply chain for both farmer and brewer. The relationship forged between the two companies means that volatility in the grain markets and the variation in the quality of malting barley from year to year can be managed successfully.

Adnams’ Head Brewer Fergus Fitzgerald said, “Recent food safety scares have highlighted the importance of working directly with suppliers. By placing longer term contracts with named growers,

we can secure supply and ensure the quality of our barley. We prefer to build relationships with farms such as Holkham, as they have the knowledge and expertise to produce the specific varieties of barley that are required for Adnams’ beers and spirits, rather than growers that come in and out of the market depending on the price. Adnams and Holkham have enjoyed a close relationship for many years. The Adnams Cellar & Kitchen store has been on the estate for the past eight years and now many of the products sold in the store will have originated from the estate!”

Poul Hovesen, Director of Farming at Holkham commented, “This year’s spring barley harvest

promises to be one of the best over the last three to four years with both yields and quality looking good. Our winter barley, despite the wet autumn, cold winter and spring, is surprisingly good. Holkham’s six course rotation, built on the principles of the estate’s famous four course crop rotation system, pioneered by Coke of Norfolk in the 18th century, means we will be able to achieve consistent top quality spring barley in the future. The rotation system ensures our soils are in the best condition to grow a sustainable, healthy, quality crop. It’s really gratifying to see a direct connection between us and the end-user, Adnams. The next time we see this barley – in January – it will be in a pint of Adnams beer!”



Building up supplies for the biomass boiler

The big task of chipping sufficient wood to stockpile ready for the biomass boiler, to be switched on this winter, is well underway. Contractors working for the Landscape Department selectively felled 4,500 tonnes of excess timber from the east park over last winter. The good quality timber has been sold to pay for the ‘harvesting’ and the remainder has now been chipped and stored in a converted redundant farm barn in the park which holds a little over 1,000 tonnes of wood chip. Eventually the boiler will generate sufficient heat to supply heating and hot water to all the buildings adjacent to the hall as well as The Victoria Inn.



It’s not all good news...

It would appear that some people are determined to spoil visiting children’s enjoyment of what we offer at Holkham. We have recently been subjected to two unwelcome and upsetting instances of vandalism; one at the new children’s woodland play area and one at The Victoria.

At the woodland play area, somebody attacked the new equipment with a knife, possibly on a couple of occasions. The netting making up one of the aerial bridges was slashed, which could have had nasty consequences for a child if it hadn’t been spotted. The other incident involved the rubber sheath over the zip wire seat chain, which is there to protect little fingers from being nipped. This was also slashed with a knife. Over the weekend of the Holkham Country Fair empty wine bottles were found in the play area one morning which were not there the previous evening when the space was locked up for the night.

At The Victoria, someone smashed glass into the children’s play area, scattering the shards into the woodchip ground covering, leaving us no choice but to replace all the woodchip so that we were certain that no glass remained.

It is a real shame that these isolated incidents have happened. The police have been informed and the estate will be pursuing its own enquiries and taking steps to ensure that incidents of this nature won’t happen again, or if they do, to catch the perpetrators who appear to think this is a fun thing to do.



Going back to his roots

BY SARA PHILLIPS, EDITOR



The Victoria, recently re-opened after an extensive refurbishment, also has a new head chef. His name is Nik Hare and he's made the trip along our coast from The White Horse in Blakeney to The Victoria at Holkham, where he is delighted to have landed.

Nik has been part of the revival of British food that has taken place recently, but his culinary start was solidly based in French cuisine – he trained in France – and it is this style of cooking that he has brought to The Vic. He is relishing the opportunity to go back to his roots and cook in the classic

French style. With a menu that is classic, generous and seasonal, there will be no smears, foams or food served on roofing slates, just the very best local ingredients, much of it from the estate (especially in winter), prepared with elegant simplicity. His signature dish is lamb rump with spring onion mash and garlic, served with sauté greens. It sounds simple, but the *jus* that is served with it takes 17 hours to make! As Nik says, you start with a big pot of bones, vegetables and flavouring and reduce it and reduce it down to a delicious and richly flavoured sauce, which gives the dish its twist.

He wants to reassure everyone that his food is nothing to be scared of. It makes no difference whether his customers are a family in muddy wellies or a couple looking to have a romantic meal for two – the food will be something to savour. And he's already cooked for a famous face or two – jockey Frankie Dettori and his family came to The Vic recently and ate in the restaurant.

The style of cooking is different to what Nik has been doing in other places, but he is clearly enjoying himself and he's looking forward to developing his menu over the winter.

Visit The Victoria's website at www.holkham.co.uk/victoria for Nik's menu and to take advantage of their seasonal offers.

Look out for a recipe from Nik in the next issue of The Holkham Gazette

Bridging the gap

Anyone who lives or works in Wells-next-the-Sea, or who visited the town for a holiday this summer, cannot help but be aware of the traffic problems the town experienced. In an attempt to alleviate some of the problems, members of Wells Town Council met with the Holkham Estate to work together on the town's car parking problems.

The hot weather this summer made it necessary not only to use the recreation field in Wells – regularly pressed into service as an overspill car park, but also the pitch and putt field to accommodate all the visiting vehicles. On Sunday 7th July over 900 vehicles were parked between the two fields, which prevented a repeat of the traffic problems experienced in the town during May.

However, it has always been difficult to provide sufficient people to staff the pitch and putt entrance, which needs at least three people to control the parking and vehicles crossing the Wells Harbour railway line. Therefore a temporary bridge was installed to link the two fields, creating easy vehicle access to the pitch and putt and providing suitable temporary car parking for at least a thousand vehicles. This was a joint venture between Wells Town Council and Holkham and it made a difference to the visitors coming into the town, who had easily accessible parking during this wonderful summer.



What's on locally...

TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER, 10am
Walking Women – Holkham Park

WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER, 6pm
Illustrated talk by John Benjamin, popular presenter on BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, entitled *Fabergé – The Life and Work of the World's Greatest Goldsmith in the Marble Hall at Holkham in aid of Wells Community Hospital*

THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 12noon – 4pm
Demonstration Day in the Holkham Gift Shop – Terry Larwood, clay sculptures

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER, 10am
Deer Discovery Walk – Holkham Park

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER, 3pm
Chamber Music in the Marble Hall – Elias String Quartet. Pre-concert talk at 3pm by Simon Rowland-Jones, followed by the concert at 4.30pm

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER, 9.30am
Heritage House Fun Run – Holkham Park

THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER, 12noon – 4pm
Demonstration Day in the Holkham Gift Shop
Terry Larwood, clay sculptures

TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER, 10am
Guided Walk – Holkham National Nature Reserve

THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER, 12noon – 4pm
Demonstration Day in the Holkham Gift Shop
Terry Larwood, clay sculptures

SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER, 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Autumn Tours of the private gardens at Holkham

MONDAY 21st OCTOBER
Annual Nelson Dinner at The Hoste, Burnham Market

SUNDAY 27th TO THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER, 10am – 5pm
Halloween Horrors at Holkham
Hall open 27th, 28th & 31st October, 12noon – 4pm

WEDNESDAY 30th AND THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER, 6pm & 8pm
Halloween Theatre – *Her Lady's Revenge*

FRIDAY 1st TO SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER
Burnham Market Book Festival

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER, 3pm
Chamber Music in the Marble Hall – Sitkovetsky Piano Trio

TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER, 10am
Walking Women – Wells-next-the-Sea

TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER, 6pm
Wells-next-the-Sea town bonfire on The Buttlands

THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER
A Hoste of Jazz – The Hoste, Burnham Market

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER
Noel Coward evening – The Hoste, Burnham Market

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER
A Hoste of Jazz – The Hoste, Burnham Market

TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER, 10am
Guided Walk – Holkham National Nature Reserve

TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER, 10am
Walking Women – Wells-next-the-Sea

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER, 7pm
Chamber Music in the Marble Hall – Till Fellner on piano

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER
Clairvoyant Evening – The Hoste, Burnham Market

SATURDAY 7th AND SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER, 10am – 5pm
Christmas Celebrations at Holkham
Hall open 11am

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER, 12noon
Deer Discovery Walk – Holkham Park

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER, 12noon – 4pm
Demonstration Day in the Holkham Gift Shop
Terry Larwood, clay sculptures

WEDNESDAY 11th TO FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER, 4pm – 8pm
Christmas Candlelight Tours of Holkham Hall

FRIDAY 13th TO SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER
Wells-next-the-Sea Christmas Tide

SATURDAY 14th AND SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER, 10am – 5pm
Christmas Celebrations at Holkham
Hall open 11am

SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER, 7.30pm
Concert in the Marble Hall – The Three Harps of Christmas. Ruth Wall, harpist, plays traditional carols and medieval music arranged and introduced by composer Graham Fitkin

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER, 12noon
Deer Discovery Walk – Holkham Park

WEDNESDAY 18th TO FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER, 4pm – 8pm
Christmas Candlelight Tours of Holkham Hall

SATURDAY 21st AND SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER, 2pm & 6.30pm
Christmas Theatre at Holkham
The Great Santa Kidnap at 2pm each day
Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol at 6.30pm each day

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER, 11.30am
Traditional carol service at St. Withburga's Church



For more information about Holkham events go to www.holkham.co.uk

Make Christmas Special



Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December

10am – 5pm

Hall open 11am. Last admission 4pm

See Holkham Hall decorated for Christmas with characters from Christmas past, choirs singing and music playing. Listen to stories of old by the fireside, see traders with unique gifts and enjoy festive crafts for children with face painting and Yuletide refreshments too.

Children, visit Father Christmas in his magical new grotto. Tickets: Adult £15, Child (2-16 years) £10, Family (2+2) £45

Child ticket includes a gift from Father Christmas.

Face painting from £2.

10% online discount, visit our website.

Candlelight Tours

Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th December

Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th December

4pm – 8pm

As evening falls, let our guides take you on a tour of the magnificent state rooms and listen to their intriguing stories of Holkham's history and residents. See the enchanting decorations illuminated by the flicker of candlelight.

Tickets: Adult £15, Child (5-16 years) £10.

We welcome children, however we recommend tours are suitable for 8 years and above.

Includes a glass of wine or soft drink in the Stables Café.

Tours last 45 minutes and are timed every 20 minutes.

The Three Harps of Christmas

Saturday 14th December 7.30pm

Ruth Wall, harpist, performs traditional carols and medieval music arranged and introduced by composer Graham Fitkin.

Tickets: £25 Includes a glass of champagne in the interval.

Christmas Theatre

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd December

Performances on both days in the spectacular setting of the Marble Hall.

2pm The Great Santa Kidnap

A festive tale of intrigue, excitement, goblins and reindeer!



6.30pm Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol

A mysterious Yuletide Victorian theatrical treat.

Tickets for each production:

Auditorium: Adult £16.50, Child £12.50

Gallery: Adult £12.50, Child £8.50

Tickets include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

For more information on all our Christmas events and to book tickets visit our website www.holkham.co.uk

Win one of two family tickets to our Christmas Celebrations on Sunday 8th December

To enter email your name, address and telephone number to gazette@holkham.co.uk, mentioning the Christmas Celebrations prize draw, or complete this form and post to: Christmas Celebrations Prize Draw, Marketing Department, Holkham Estate Office, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1AB. **Closing date Friday 22nd November 2013.**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

EMAIL.....

PHONE.....

We would like to keep you informed of events and offers at Holkham by email. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive communications from us.

This prize is valid only for the Christmas Celebrations event on Sunday 8th December. Only one entry per household.

A family ticket is valid for 2 adults and 2 children. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

For full terms and conditions, see www.holkham.co.uk/html/newsletter.html

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