

# The Holkham Gazette

## All the fun of the Country Fair

For the first time, Holkham Hall will be open during the Country Fair, which this year runs over the weekend of 16th and 17th July.

This is a marvellous opportunity not only to feast your eyes on all the treats that are in store at the fair itself, but also to look round the beautiful interior of the hall at a special price of £5 per adult – children under 16 are free.

We will be running timed tours which will last for 45 minutes. The normal house route may be slightly altered and access to some rooms may be limited, but the tours will give you a real “flavour” of this impressive Palladian house.

You can order your £5 entry tickets for the hall online when you buy your Country Fair tickets, which are priced at £15 for adults (children under 14 go free) for a one day pass or £26 (children under 14 go free) for a two day pass. For information and booking visit [www.holkhamcountryfair.com](http://www.holkhamcountryfair.com). Tickets are also available from the Ticket Office at Holkham, please contact 01328 713111.

The Country Fair promises two days



of fun and interest for all ages, thanks to a full programme of events and displays in the Grand Ring from morning to evening. More than 200 trade stands, varied food and drink stalls and a large variety of show-ground events complete the mix.

One of the themes of the Country Fair is the celebration of the English countryside, its work, its leisure, its conservation, its traditions and its evolution.

It is fitting that this event is held here at Holkham, an estate steeped in

our country's history, but always with its own modern and progressive approach; from Coke of Norfolk in the 19th century, to the very different challenges of the 21st century.

We look forward to seeing you here for all the fun of the fair!

## Beautiful things made in Norfolk



Spend £10 or more in the Gift Shop and redeem your car parking charge – see back page for voucher



BY JO TENNANT

When our gift shop closed its doors at the end of the 2010 season we embarked on an ambitious project.

In conjunction with Viscountess Coke we decided the Holkham Gift Shop should support and promote small Norfolk-based businesses and enable them to showcase their work to a wider audience.

Alongside items sourced from outside the county, we are now delighted to offer for sale a selection of jewellery, photography, ceramics, ales, jams, chutneys and cordials, soaps, postcards, key rings, pottery, wood carvings along with dog biscuits, leads and dog toys, all of which have been hand-crafted and made in Norfolk.

We regard all of these local suppliers as our partners and

enjoy a close working relationship with them. We will be holding demonstration days by some of our suppliers during the coming months; do keep an eye on our website – [www.holkham.co.uk](http://www.holkham.co.uk) – so you don't miss the opportunity to meet them and watch them work.

We look forward to welcoming you at our new gift shop and we hope that you will help us to support the talented artisans of Norfolk.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming a Holkham supplier, please get in touch! We see the gift shop as an on-going project that will help many local craftspeople and artisans and we welcome all enquiries.

For more information please contact me by email – [j.tennant@holkham.co.uk](mailto:j.tennant@holkham.co.uk)





## If you want to get ahead...



built up a collection of her own creations which are gathering appreciative clients, including Lady Glenconner, who wore a Polly Whately design to the recent Royal Wedding.

Lady Coke uses straw, felt, synamay and other fabrics in her model hats, so called to distinguish them from factory-blocked hats. Model hats are made completely by hand

...Get a hat, goes the saying; one that Viscountess Coke would agree with wholeheartedly. Under her maiden name of Polly Whately, Lady Coke has returned to her career as a milliner that began before she met and married Viscount Coke and became the mother of four children.

After university, Lady Coke worked for her cousin, designer Cath Kidston. During this time her love of hats developed. Her mother is the dress designer Belinda Bellville, so creativity is clearly in her genes.

Lady Coke finds inspiration from glamorous screen stars such as Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly with their stylish, flirty and flattering hats. She has

using wooden hat blocks which Lady Coke takes great delight in sourcing from eBay and antique shops. She uses a mixture of modern and old-fashioned implements – rolling pins, a hairdryer, hair spray to stiffen veiling, a steam iron, pallet knives, endless pins (she has a magnet on a string to find all the strays) and egg irons to press shape and movement into leaf and flower trims, which again are all made by hand.

Lady Coke's wonderful workspace is up in the attic of the hall, where, as she says, she can concentrate on her beautiful hats and, just for a little while, put down the day-to-day responsibilities of looking after Holkham, her children and her husband.



## Lots of litter!

The litter pick held in conjunction with Natural England on 16th April produced 23 volunteers who came to spruce up the pinewoods at the back of Holkham beach in exchange for lunch at the Beach Café.

It was a very productive morning – an inner tube, a car tyre, half a rusty barbecue and a pair of socks were added to the haul of bottles, cans and various bits of plastic that were removed from the woods.

Natural England will be holding a Big Beachwatch weekend at Holkham on Saturday 17th September at 11am with the aim to clean up the beach and record what is found for the Marine Conservation Society's national beach survey. If you would like to join in, the event will be free of charge. For more details please contact [catherine.foreman@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:catherine.foreman@naturalengland.org.uk) or phone 07825 377652. Everyone will meet at the north end of Lady Anne's Drive; bin bags, litter pickers and survey sheets will be provided but bring gardening type gloves if you have them. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## New look at The Victoria

Coke of Norfolk, the great agriculturalist, built The Victoria Hotel in 1838, the year after Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. For many years it was leased out, then in 2001 it was taken back into estate ownership and refurbished by Viscount and Viscountess Coke.

The Victoria rapidly established itself as *the* place to visit, with reviews in many lifestyle magazines praising the comfortable mix of relaxed, colonial decor, welcoming informality, beautiful rooms, delicious food and drink and the magnificence of the estate and beach on its doorstep.

In April 2010 a partnership was formed between the Holkham Estate and Adnams in Southwold, who took over the management of The Victoria and also the Globe Inn in Wells-next-the-Sea.

The Victoria is now undergoing a sympathetic redesign and this year will see the first phase put into place, with a new private dining room and a new reception area. The aim of the project is to link The Victoria more closely to the estate and to establish a sense of comfortable elegance. The plans have been drawn up by Angela Drinkall of Drinkall Dean in close collaboration with Viscount and Viscountess Coke and Adnams.

The Victoria will be open as normal while the work is done so why not come and see what's happening?

## Superheroes take part in a tough challenge!



The Norfolk Superhero Challenge was held in North Norfolk on 18th

June. Taking part, and raising money for the Mermaid Centre for Renal Dialysis at Wells-next-the-Sea Community Hospital, were Viscount Coke (centre in the picture above) and Estate Surveyor James Bracey (on the right). Estates Director David Horton-Fawkes (left) was to have joined them but unfortunately, due to an injury, he had to pull out about three weeks before the competition.

The conditions of James' Golden Ticket entry meant that he undertook to raise a guaranteed £5,000 for the event's designated charity, the Mermaid Appeal. The money raised

goes towards providing short-term kidney haemodialysis treatment for people who are on holiday in the North Norfolk area. The organisers of the Superhero Challenge expressed their thanks to the Holkham Estate for being so supportive of the event – especially the sponsorship of the running leg.

The Challenge certainly lives up to its name. This was the fifth year that it has been held, and approximately 140 competitors, both male and female, had to complete a tough quadrathlon which comprised:

- Swimming one mile from Gun Hill to the quay at Burnham Overy Staithe with the incoming tide.
- Kayaking a four mile course through the creeks of Burnham Overy Staithe.
- Cycling a 38 mile route on North Norfolk's scenic roads, including an incursion into Holkham park.
- Running seven miles across the tracks, sand, mud and marsh of the Holkham National Nature Reserve.

Before David had to pull out, all three men were looking forward to the challenge with a mixture of bravado and trepidation and the consensus (at least between David and James) was that Lord Coke would be the first of them to make it home. Lord Coke smiled when this was suggested!

Unfortunately we went to press before the event was held, so cannot report on Lord Coke's or James' placing, but for all the results and pictures of this year's event, go to [www.norfolksuperhero.co.uk](http://www.norfolksuperhero.co.uk)

## Who's cooking at The Victoria?

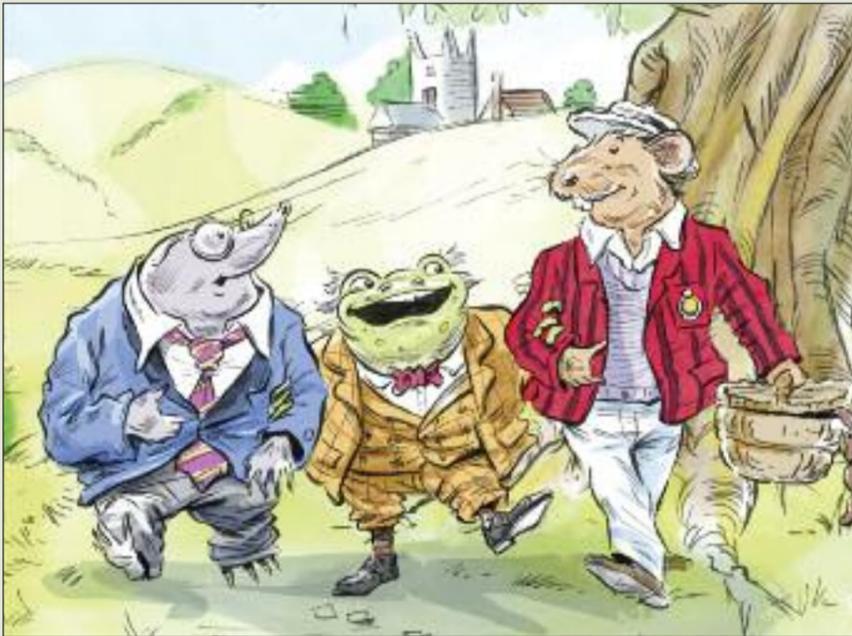


Saurav Kumar is the new head chef at The Victoria. He comes to Norfolk from Ravenwood Hall in Bury St Edmunds, where he was head chef for three years. Saurav was trained by Angela Hartnett at the Connaught, the luxury 5-star hotel in London's Mayfair. He's looking forward to putting his personality on the plate at The Victoria. His menus will change every two months as he uses seasonal and English ingredients at their very best to get both flavour and value from them.





# Wind in the Willows



On Wednesday 3rd August at 6.15pm Cambridge Touring Theatre presents a wonderful adaptation of the classic *Wind in the Willows*. The suggested age of the audience is 3 to 93 so it's one for all the family to enjoy. Adults £11.50. Children £8. Family (two adults + two children) £35. Under 2s free.

### Pre-Show Children's Workshop at 4.15pm

Why not come along before the show and join in the fun at the pre-show children's workshop? The workshop will last approximately 45 minutes and children will have the chance to meet some of the wonderful characters from the show, learn songs and play some of the characters as well. Suitable for children ages 5 to 11yrs. Children £2. Please note that there is a maximum of 60 places for this pre-show workshop.

### Three Day Children's Drama Workshop

From Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th August, Cambridge Touring Theatre will also be holding a three day children's drama workshop, leading up to your own production of *Wind in the Willows*.

You will be in charge of stage management, acting, singing, dancing, artwork, publicity and production and at the end of the three days you will be able to show your work to your friends and family.

Even if you don't want to act, you will be fully involved in the process. We want you to have a really wonderful experience. Whatever skills you bring to the workshop will be used and valued. The workshop is suitable for children aged 7 to 11 years and will take place from 10am to 4pm each day. Three Day ticket price – £90 per child (siblings 10% discount). Price includes a morning and afternoon snack and a packed lunch can be pre-booked for £5 per day. The venue will be our education room in the courtyard at Holkham Hall.

For all information about the *Wind in the Willows* production and workshops and all other outdoor theatre enquiries, please contact our Ticket Office on 01328 713111, or email [ticketoffice@holkham.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@holkham.co.uk)

# Outdoor theatre productions

### MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST AT 7PM

Rain or Shine Theatre Company performs one of the greatest romantic comedies – William Shakespeare's tale of love, jealousy and the war of the sexes. Adults £11.50 • Children £8 • Family (2 adults/2 children) £35 • Under 2s free

### PINOCCHIO WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST AT 6.15PM

Heartbreak Productions presents Pinocchio, Geppetto the wood carver's puppet, who goes on a spirited quest to become a real boy by proving himself to be brave, honest and generous. Suggested age 5 to 50 and beyond. Adults £11.50 • Children £8 • Family (2 adults/2 children) £35 • Under 2s free

### THE CANTERBURY TALES WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST AT 6.15PM

The Pantaloons Theatre Company brings Chaucer's pilgrims to life in this brand new adaptation of the medieval classic with a contemporary twist. There are talking chickens! Suggested age 5+.

### SNOW WHITE WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST AT 6.15PM

Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents this beloved fairytale as Snow White finds an unusual group of friends deep in the forest. Don't forget to come in fancy dress for the Fairytale Parade during the interval! Suggested age 4+.

### SENSE AND SENSIBILITY SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER AT 6PM

Join Chapterhouse Theatre Company for an evening of Regency wonderment, as Elinor and Marianne Dashwood make their first forays into the world of eighteenth-century society. Follow the sisters as they fall in love, make mistakes and experience heartbreak in their quest to find a balance between sense and sensibility.

Adults £11.50 • Children £8 • Family (2 adults/2 children) £35 • Under 2s free

FOR TICKETS AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT HOLKHAM TICKET OFFICE ON 01328 713111.

## Win family tickets for Sense and Sensibility

Fill in your name, address, phone number and email address to be entered into a draw to win one of two sets of family tickets (for two adults and two children) to see *Sense and Sensibility* in the Courtyard at Holkham on Saturday 10th September at 6pm.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

PHONE .....

EMAIL .....

Post your completed form to Holkham Competition, 2d Maryland, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1LY. Closing date is 15th August. Winners will be notified by 22nd August.

One entry per household

If you do not wish to receive further information from the Holkham Estate please tick this box

# Get carried away on the Holkham Coasthopper!

Keep your eyes peeled around North Norfolk this summer and you'll probably catch sight of "our" Coasthopper bus. It's been smartly decorated with a stunning image of Holkham Hall on the back.

Norfolk Green, the company that runs the Coasthopper, has a policy of naming its buses so, at Lord Leicester's request, the bus "adopted" by Holkham was the one already named Thomas William Coke. Inside the bus, along with timetables and other useful information, you can pick up leaflets about Holkham so that you can plan your visit here.

The bus stops on the coast road by The Victoria and it is just a short walk through the park to get to Holkham Hall. The Coasthopper will carry dogs and they are low-floor, wheelchair accessible buses so everyone can use this marvellous service. For a full timetable, please go to [www.coasthopper.co.uk](http://www.coasthopper.co.uk)



# NADFAS lunch

To show their appreciation of the sterling work done by the ladies of the Glaven Valley and King's Lynn branches of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), Viscount and Viscountess Coke hosted a lunch for all of them on Thursday 7th April at Holkham.



# Noticeboard



## Dig those volunteers!



Thanks to a request in the first issue of the Holkham Gazette for volunteers to help in the Walled Gardens, Head Gardener Tim Marshall has welcomed several new helpers to his team. Assisting Deputy Head Gardener Jonathan Taylor (above left) are Jim Dowdy (centre) and Nick Martin (right), both of whom live in Wells and who are delighted to have a chance to see this five-year restoration project on its way.

Jim is a retired gardener who used to work in a walled garden and they have always exerted a fascination for him, so being able to give a few hours here every other Thursday is a delight. Nick, whose partner Linda Rogers also volunteers, sees the estate as Wells' back garden and wants to see the Walled Gardens restored and to make a contribution if he can. He also reckons it offers good exercise in an idyllic setting.

In the sunken greenhouse the ladies were hard at work pricking out seedlings that they had sown previously. Linda Rogers, Susanne Durston and Barbara Oliver have only been working at the Walled Gardens for a couple of weeks but already they can see that they can make a real contribution to the restoration.

To join Tim's volunteer team please give him a call on 07884 183543. There's a packed lunch in it for you if you would like to lend a hand.

### SANDRA ROWNEY

Sandra is the artist in residence in the Walled Gardens and she will be following the restoration work there over the next few years. Her current exhibition "Gardeners' Winter" follows the work of the gardening team through the last winter. The work is created from her sketches, photography and digital painting, and is now exhibited in the middle of the garden in a converted potting shed. It is open to the public every day until the end of July, from 12 noon to 4pm.



## Gardening Tips

by Head Gardener Tim Marshall

Jobs to do in July, August and September

- Keep your tender perennials such as Pelargoniums dead headed to prolong the flowering season.
- During dry periods cut your lawn on a higher cut and allow the clippings to lie on the lawn surface to try and reduce water loss.
- As fruit ripens harvest or protect it before birds or vermin manage to ruin the crop – especially strawberry and Cherry crops.
- In greenhouses ensure adequate ventilation on hot days to reduce water loss to the plants and lessen the chance of scorching.
- Once onion tops have browned off, lift them and put them in store – make sure they are dry before storing in a cool dry shed.
- Don't allow tomatoes which are in fruit to dry out as this could cause the fruit to split when watering restarts.
- Make sure tomatoes and peppers are fed regularly with a low nitrogen fertiliser.
- August is the best time to trim box (Buxus) hedging and topiary, the ideal conditions are when the foliage of the plants is slightly moist to reduce the risk of scorching and foliar damage.







AWARDED BY  
THE  
GOOD PUB GUIDE  
VOTED FOR BY YOU,  
*Thank you!*

### Win an Adnams Experience in Southwold

You'll enjoy a **full brewery tour** and a **one night stay for two people** at the Adnams **Crown Hotel** in the vibrant town of Southwold.  
To enter, please complete your details below and drop your entry form in at The Victoria Hotel at Holkham or post to  
Adnams Plc, East Green, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6JW.  
Closing date 5pm on Friday 29th July.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email.....

If you do not wish to receive further information from Adnams or the Holkham Estate tick this box



Terms & Conditions apply:  
1 This is a prize draw competition. 2 Applications for the competition close by 5pm on Friday, 29th July, 2011. 3 The winner will be notified via email and/or post by 8th August 2011. 4 The prize is valid for two people (winner plus one guest). 5 Hotel accommodation includes breakfast only. 6 Dates subject to availability

## Holkham Gift Shop voucher

If you spend £10 or more in the Gift Shop between now and 31st August and present this voucher at the till, you can redeem your £2.50 car parking charge against your purchase.

The Gift Shop stocks a beautiful selection of carefully chosen, locally made items to suit all purses – you'll be spoilt for choice.

The Gift Shop is open every day from 10am to 5pm.

Offer only valid on presentation of this voucher  
Only one voucher per customer  
Offer ends 31st August 2011

## Follow us!

You can follow Holkham on both Facebook ([www.facebook.com/HolkhamEstate](http://www.facebook.com/HolkhamEstate)) and Twitter ([@Holkham](http://twitter.com/Holkham)), which will keep you up-to-date with everything that's happening here.




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