

The Holkham Gazette

What goes around, comes around How crop rotation continues to be developed at Holkham

BY POUL HOVESEN
DIRECTOR OF FARMING

Most visitors who come to Holkham will probably come to enjoy exploring the hall, the parkland and the coast and may not realise that Holkham's true heritage lies in the fact that it was here that modern agriculture began.

In the late 18th century Great Britain saw a rapid increase in its population. Demand for food was increasing but the land was not keeping its fertility. The 1st Earl of Leicester (2nd Creation), Thomas William Coke (1754-1842) – known as Coke of Norfolk – was an enthusiastic and responsible landowner who regarded it as his responsibility to seek answers to this problem. He understood that in order to increase the fertility of Holkham's land, crops needed to be grown in rotation in order to ensure nutrients were not depleted and that the soil was treated as a vital tool in the production of better and healthier crops.

Coke's solution was to develop a rotation of crops and livestock, known as the 'Four Course Rotation'. This rotation involved growing a root crop (turnips or beet), followed by a cereal crop (wheat or barley), followed by grass and then in the final year grazing the land with sheep or cattle which added their manure. By repeating this process over a period of four years the land was able to recover and replenish ensuring that grassland was more fertile, enabling a higher number of animals to graze and leading to



Coke of Norfolk, painted by Norfolk-born Samuel Lane. The inscription on the painting reads: "This portrait of Thomas William Coke Esq, painted at the request of a numerous body of agriculturalists as a memorial of the important services rendered to the world at large and to this country in particular by his arduous and successful exertions in the promotion of agriculture, was presented by the subscribers to the committee of the Corn Exchange February 1st 1833".



Forming ridges in preparation for potato planting

increased crop output.

In addition to Coke's theory on crop production he also put great thought into the improvement of breeding and the introduction of better animal husbandry. Sheep Shearing events were started by Coke in an attempt to promote better knowledge of the breeding of sheep to increase wool and meat production. These events were open to both farmers and members of the public and were the forerunners of today's agricultural shows. The Great Barn and the Monument at Holkham both represent different aspects of Coke's achievements.

Today Holkham's farming takes inspiration from Coke as it seeks to move into the 21st century. Many of modern agriculture's problems would sound familiar to Coke – a need to increase production and deal with falling fertility means that we need to look for new answers to old problems. Holkham is now developing a rotation which takes Coke's principles a step further – the 'Six Course Rotation'. The new rotation is potatoes (root crop), winter barley (cereal), oil seed rape, winter wheat, sugar beet, wheat/spring barley.

Every element of Holkham's new 'Six Course Rotation' feeds into the food chain in Norfolk and beyond... The potatoes we grow, under the name of Holkham Emerald, include both the delicious salad potatoes with 'rub off skins' and the more conventional 'ware' potatoes which are a familiar part of our everyday meals.

We grow an old variety of winter barley called Maris Otter which makes the malt that gives flavour to real ale. Even the USA is getting a taste for our real ales so the

demand for Maris Otter continues to grow. We also grow two other varieties of winter barley, Flagon and Venture, and these produce a malt that goes into lagers.

North Norfolk's spring barley is especially sought after by local brewers and maltsters and this year Holkham will be supplying 50% of the malting barley used by world famous Suffolk brewers, Adnams. And last, but by no means least, our barley also goes into the production of malt at Munton's Malt in Stowmarket which makes the malty, honeycombed centres of Maltesers!

After the bright yellow flowers of the oil seed rape plant have been fertilised and matured, the seed pods are harvested in late summer and the crushed seeds release an oil that is used in numerous foods for both humans and animals. Some rape seed oil may also go into bio-fuels.

Holkham's winter wheat is used in bread-making or feed for animals. Winter wheat can also be used for malting, especially for whisky.

Our sugar beet is sent to British Sugar's Wissington factory to make sugar. Interestingly the waste heat from the production process at Wissington also helps grow some 25% of British tomatoes!

We think that Coke of Norfolk would also be pleased to know that Holkham farming still has a herd of South Devon cows for beef production. These are grazed on the marshes as this is a more sustainable option for the 21st century.

So, some 170 years after Coke of Norfolk led the way with his innovative 'Four Course Rotation', the Holkham Estate is once again forging ahead with new ideas and new practices. The new 'Six Course Rotation' is taking its place in ensuring the sustainability of Holkham's land for future generations.



Outdoor Theatre – there’s something for everyone!

As You Like It

Wednesday 24th July at 7pm

This summer The Lord Chamberlain’s Men return to Holkham with their all male production of Shakespeare’s mysterious and romantic comedy. With warring brothers, clowns, comic peasants, romance, death threats, escape and even a wrestling match there is something for everyone. Come and see what happens when a boy plays a girl who dresses as a boy and then pretends to be a girl!

Tickets: Adult £15, Child (2-16) £10, Family £45 (2 adults and 2 children)

Gulliver’s Travels

Wednesday 7th August at 6.15pm

London Touring Theatre use puppetry and song to tell the story of Gulliver as he journeys from London on the adventure of a lifetime. Shipwrecked in the middle of nowhere, Gulliver finds himself in the bizarre and wonderful worlds of Lilliput and Brobdingnag. He makes friends and enemies and finds himself tied down in the tiny land of Lilliput, then dwarfed by eagles in Brobdingnag.

Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child (2-16) £8.50, Family £38 (2 adults and 2 children)

Dotty The Dragon

Wednesday 14th August at 6.15pm

Blunderbus Theatre Company gives us the magical adventure of a brave dragon in a big scary world. Dotty is a fire dragon who lives on top of a mountain with her grumpy dad, Mr Dragon. In the village below, everyone is scared – they think dragons eat children! But Dotty would never eat children! One day, she pays the village a surprise visit... Music, puppetry and audience participation makes this the perfect family picnic adventure! Especially for 3 to 7 year olds and their grown ups.

Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child (2-16) £8.50, Family £38 (2 adults and 2 children)



Treasure Island

Wednesday 21st August at 6.15pm

We’re off to the sunny Caribbean with Cambridge Touring Theatre. Jim and Ruth find a treasure map and set sail for adventure. They learn about loyalty and friendship – and whether to trust Long John Silver! Suitable for all ages, the performance is full of laughs and catchy tunes. Come dressed in your best pirate clothes and have your photo taken.

Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child (2-16) £8.50, Family £38 (2 adults and 2 children)

The Hundred and One Dalmatians

Wednesday 28th August at 6.15pm

Family entertainment from The Baroque Theatre Company. Dalmatians Pongo and Missis are expecting their first litter, though what has obsessive fur collector Cruella de Vil got planned? Missis produces fifteen puppies and cruel Cruella kidnaps the lot! Pongo and Missis enlist the support of the Twilight Barking to rescue their own pups – and more!

Suitable for ages 5 upwards.

Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child (2-16) £8.50, Family £38 (2 adults and 2 children)

Outdoor theatre production tickets are available from the Ticket Office, telephone 01328 713111, or book online at www.holkham.co.uk



Win one of two family tickets to see Dotty the Dragon

To enter email your name, address and telephone number to gazette@holkham.co.uk, mentioning the Outdoor Theatre prize draw, or complete this form and post to: Outdoor Theatre Competition, Marketing Department, Holkham Estate Office, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1AB, before Friday 2nd August 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 Outdoor Theatre production of Dotty the Dragon on Wednesday 14th August at 6.15pm • Valid for a maximum of 4 people – 2 adults and 2 children
For full terms and conditions, see www.holkham.co.uk/newsletter

Playing and learning

BY SUE PENLINGTON, EDUCATION OFFICER

After much anticipation the education team has started to host school visits and fittingly the first school to visit was Wells Primary School.

The students had a great, though cold, day with us in the woods exploring the habitat and working together in small teams to make mini dens and tall towers out of natural materials.

During the spring we have hosted groups exploring life on the beach, we have added pond dipping to our growing list of activities in the park and there’s also the superb woodland adventure play area! We have brought history to life in the Bygones Museum and in the hall itself and we have had volunteers to help with the renovation project at the walled gardens.

My colleague Michaela Dartford and I have planned an action-packed summer holiday programme of events which include pond dipping, minibeast hunting and all sorts of different craft activities.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us – all the information you need is on the Holkham website at www.holkham.co.uk



Pond dipping in the lake in Holkham Park

Holkham during the First World War

Do you have a story to tell of a relative or friend connected to the Holkham Estate during the First World War of 1914-18? If so we would love to hear your story, look at your photographs and see any memorabilia you may have. We want to hear about anyone with links to Holkham whose life was affected by this global event.

Please contact Colin Shearer by email c.shearer@holkham.co.uk or you can write to him at the following address: Collections and Security Manager, Holkham Hall, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1AB.





Installation of the biomass boiler at Holkham

Lord Coke explains why a biomass boiler has been installed at the hall and what the consequences will be for the estate



Contractors are half-way through the installation of a huge biomass boiler system that will provide all the heating and hot water for the hall in readiness for the autumn. In the fullness of time it will heat the offices, the Stables Café, Bygones, the shop, toilets and the soon to be redeveloped Pottery factory. I am delighted about the boiler's installation on two counts. Firstly the project very much accords with my desire for energy usage on the estate to become increasingly sustainable and secondly, despite the high initial capital cost, this system, when combined with the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), will mean financial savings. The aging German oil-fired boilers my father installed in the early 1990s (2 x 330 kilowatt) are coming to the end of their life. Not

having to buy 70,000 litres of oil each year will be most welcome!

The Austrian Gilles boilers of 450KW and 360KW (the smaller one to be run in the summer only) will run on wood chips from the estate's own timber. At peak load they may consume 80 tonnes a month. Some of the keener walkers amongst you may have noticed long stacks of timber along tracks in the East Park. A total of 4,500 tonnes of mostly thinned, mixed trees were selectively felled last winter to allow the remaining, better quality, trees to thrive. The good quality timber has been sold to pay for the 'harvesting' and the remainder will be chipped after a year of seasoning and stored in a converted redundant farm barn in the park which will hold a little over 1,000 tonnes of wood chips. When required, a farm tractor and trailer will transport the chips to the new boiler house and bunker in the woods behind the hall. This can store 40 tonnes, so at peak times it will be filled twice a month. It is envisaged that 325 tonnes will be used each year.

The boilers will heat two massive insulated 5,000 litre hot water tanks in the boiler room and the water from these will be pumped 300 metres through heavily insulated underground pipes to the hall where a heat plate exchanger will transfer the heat to the existing hall plumbing system. Any remaining expensive electric hot water tanks in the hall will be changed to take advantage of this renewable heat. The two 'buffer' tanks can be heated during the night when

there may be less demand for heat.

Growing timber in the east of England, which has relatively little rainfall, is not a profitable business particularly when much of the woodland provides only amenity and sporting value. Turning non-valuable thinnings into chips to be 'sold' to the hall will bring much needed income to the forestry department and allow us to better manage the woods and continue the essential replanting programme.

Planning permission has also been granted for a smaller biomass boiler system and housing next to the Ancient House and this will provide all the heating requirements for that building and the Victoria Hotel in due course.



What's on locally...

TUESDAY 2nd JULY

Walking Women – Wells Orchids

7th, 11th, 21st & 25th JULY

Demonstration Days in Holkham Gift Shop

7th, 14th, 17th 20th & 29th JULY

Cricket Matches in Holkham Park

SATURDAY 13th JULY

Burnham Market Flower Show and Carnival

TUESDAY 16th JULY

Guided Walk Holkham National Nature Reserve – Spoonbills

SUNDAY 21st JULY

Jazz at The Globe Inn, Wells-next-the-Sea

WEDNESDAY 24th JULY

Outdoor Theatre at Holkham – As You Like It

THURSDAY 25th JULY

Holkham Park Discovery Day

FRIDAY 26th JULY

Wells Beach Discovery Day

FRIDAY 26th JULY TO SUNDAY 4th AUGUST

Wells-next-the-Sea Carnival Week

SATURDAY 27th & SUNDAY 28th JULY

Holkham Country Fair

THURSDAY 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th AUGUST

Holkham Park Discovery Days

FRIDAY 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th AUGUST

Wells Beach Discovery Days

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST

Deer Discovery Walk in Holkham Park

3rd, 10th, 11th, 18th, 25th & 30th AUGUST

Cricket Matches in Holkham Park

TUESDAY 6th AUGUST

Walking Women – Holkham Walled Gardens

WEDNESDAY 7th AUGUST

Outdoor Theatre at Holkham – Gulliver's Travels

12th, 18th & 25th AUGUST

Demonstration Days in Holkham Gift Shop

WEDNESDAY 14th AUGUST

Outdoor Theatre at Holkham – Dotty the Dragon

WEDNESDAY 14th AUGUST

North Norfolk Music Festival Concert to be held at Holkham Hall – Arienski Ensemble

SATURDAY 17th AUGUST

Burnham Market Craft Fair

SUNDAY 18th AUGUST

Jazz at The Globe Inn, Wells-next-the-Sea

SUNDAY 18th AUGUST

Wells Harbour Day – Celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Port of Wells

MONDAY 19th AUGUST

FALCON Storytelling and Den Building Day in Holkham Park

TUESDAY 20th AUGUST

Bat Walk in Holkham Park

WEDNESDAY 21st AUGUST

Outdoor Theatre at Holkham – Treasure Island

SATURDAY 24th AUGUST

Jools Holland and his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra in Holkham Park

WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST

Outdoor Theatre at Holkham – The Hundred and One Dalmatians

31st AUGUST & 1st SEPTEMBER

North Norfolk Food and Drink Festival

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

Walking Women – Wells-next-the-Sea

8th, 15th & 21st SEPTEMBER

Cricket Matches in Holkham Park

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

North Norfolk Triathlon – Wells-next-the-Sea

FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Bat Walk in Holkham Park

SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

The Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk in Holkham Park

SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Demonstration Day in Holkham Gift Shop

TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

Guided Walk Holkham National Nature Reserve – Salt Marsh Stroll and Seabirds

WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Talk by Juliet Webster at Holkham – The Copper Nightingale

WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Photography Workshop at Holkham

28th & 29th SEPTEMBER

Plant Fair in the Walled Gardens at Holkham



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



Noticeboard

Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside!

BY ALAN MILLER, BEACH CAFÉ MANAGER

It's all change again for the coming summer season at the Beach Café in Wells. As a result of some bright ideas I had over the winter, there are new additions to the outside seating area, including a classic seaside cut-out board which incorporates all that is great about Wells-next-the-Sea – lifeboat men, seals, crabs, wind farms, buckets and spades, Punch and Judy – there's even a cut-out for your dog!

We have also installed two giant stripy deckchairs which will seat two people with ease, and maybe more if you're feeling brave! Plus there are new funky bike racks to padlock your bike to whilst you're having a cup of tea and a yummy slice of cake. The newly refurbished K-9 Club will make your faithful companion of the furry kind feel welcome too.

Our aim is to make the Beach Café the ultimate seaside experience and all these new ideas have been made possible with the help of customers and local traders. Regular customer Pippa Gorman made my idea of a seaside cut-out into a design that local carpenter Simon Neale could use. Simon has also brought his skills to bear on making the new K-9 Club board, the cake table sign and the frame for the cut-out. I would like to express my thanks to Pippa and Simon.

We extend a warm invitation to you all to come and bring your family (and your dog) and join in the fun – in July and August we are open seven days a week, from 9am to 7pm. Come on down!

The picture of the seaside cut out above shows, from left to right, carpenter Simon Neale, Beach Café manager Alan Miller, Wells lifeboat coxswain Allen Fray, Pippa Gorman, the local artist responsible for the design of the board and Colm Hunt who works at the Beach Café.



Lapwing picture © Andy Bloomfield



Birds, beasts and volunteers

BY SARAH HENDERSON, NATURE RESERVE MANAGER

The wildlife of Holkham National Nature Reserve never ceases to amaze and it is a real joy and privilege to observe the seasons and the changes they bring.

Spring got off to a very slow start and this has had quite an effect on the flora and fauna of the reserve and we all had to wait much longer this year to see those first signs of the new season that we all look forward to.

Lapwings are one of the key bird species of the grazing marsh and are a striking and easily recognisable bird. As the breeding season approaches territories are established by the male in dramatic and aerobatic courtship displays. The male makes a nest scrape by rubbing his chest on the ground and in doing so he shows off his orange-brown rump patch to the female. This year fewer pairs have got as far as actually nesting, which we are attributing to the cold weather.

Over the winter we have built up a regular band of volunteers and between them they contributed an extra 31 days work to the reserve. They have helped clear invading scrub from the dunes, manage some of the orchid areas and carry out work for the natterjack toads. If you are interested in helping with either practical or survey work please contact Sarah Henderson on 01328 800730 or email s.henderson@holkham.co.uk

Sale of The Globe goes ahead

The Holkham Estate is delighted to announce that the new owners of The Globe Inn in Wells-next-the-Sea are Stephen and Antonia Bournes, who are best-known for buying and totally revamping the famous pier in Southwold, Suffolk. Stephen and Antonia have pledged to maintain jobs for the existing staff team and they hope to bring to fruition the plans currently existing for a further ten bedrooms in the buildings surrounding the courtyard.

David Horton-Fawkes, Estates Director at Holkham, said: "We decided to sell this property so we could concentrate on The Victoria at the centre of the estate, which has just re-opened after a major refurbishment. We wish Stephen and Antonia every success in the future."

Stephen, whose background is in hotels said, "We are both very excited about taking on The Globe. Holkham and Adnams have done a great job and we will be looking to continue this work."



From left to right: Holkham Estates Director David Horton-Fawkes, Globe Manager Tom Pickard and Antonia and Stephen Bourne, the new owners, sealing the deal

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