

HOLT

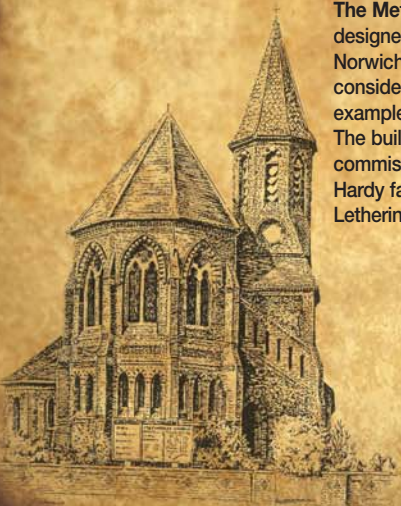
Holt. The heart of the town was rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1708, away from the church and closer to the market place. This accounts for the predomination of 18th century buildings and the designation of Holt as 'a fine Georgian Town'.

For centuries, the common land known as Spouts Hills has provided grazing and water. From Victorian times a pumping station supplied water to a tower on Shirehall Plain from where it was distributed for the townsfolk of Holt. The springs would not only have provided pure water for public use but will have filled early horse-drawn fire engines too.

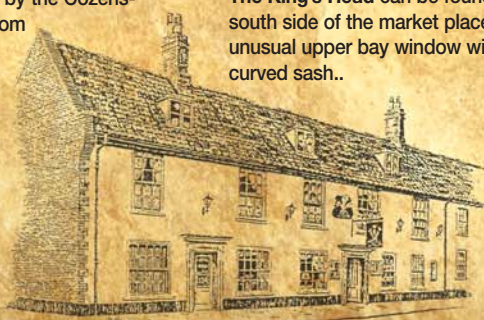


Byford's, today a delicatessen, bed and breakfast and restaurant, has retained the name of the former hardware store that was once here. It was constructed as a 17th century merchant house with fine brickwork and several small windows hidden for centuries by stucco rendering.

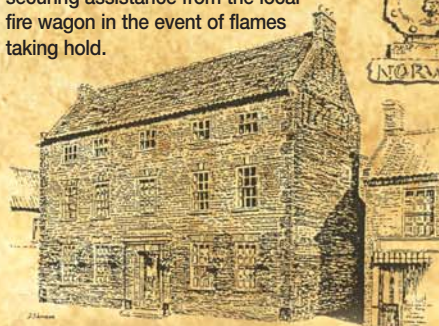
The Methodist Church was designed by Thomas Jekyll of Norwich in 1862 and is considered to be a fine example of the Gothic-style. The building was commissioned by the Cozens-Hardy family from Letheringsett.



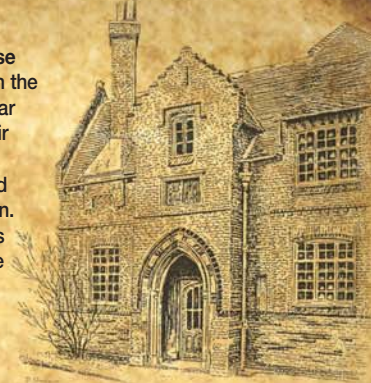
The King's Head can be found on the south side of the market place and has an unusual upper bay window with a curved sash..



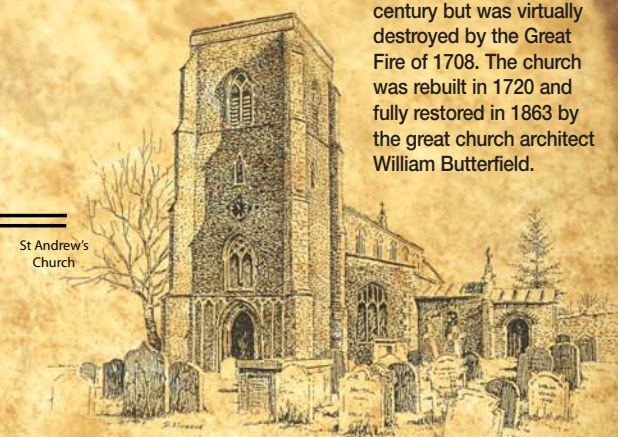
An early fire insurance plaque sits over the front door of Hanworth House. This was the only way of securing assistance from the local fire wagon in the event of flames taking hold.



The Old School House was rebuilt in 1858 on the site of a Free Grammar School founded by Sir John Gresham, a wealthy merchant and Lord Mayor of London. Above the entrance is a 16th century plaque depicting the Gresham family crests as well as that of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, which still play a major role in the management of the school.



The parish church of St. Andrew originally dates from the early 13th century but was virtually destroyed by the Great Fire of 1708. The church was rebuilt in 1720 and fully restored in 1863 by the great church architect William Butterfield.



Fish Hill is the site of a cluster of shops off the market place. The strange angle shown by some of the premises is said to be because they occupy the same footprint as the wooden mediaeval stores that stood there for centuries before the fire.



C.T. Baker's was originally built in the 1630s and its gable walls were spared by the Great Fire. Charred beams, bricks and nails from this period were discovered when the shop front was being rebuilt in the 1980s.

