

## Notes for Camrollers ride, 5 Sept.

Burnham Market is, like Fakenham, a small market town - now known as *Chelsea on Sea* due to the many rich Londoners having holiday homes there. However, a pleasant place to have our morning coffee.

Burnham Thorpe is famous as the birthplace of Horatio Nelson, son of the local rector. The church is worth a visit, containing some Nelson artifacts; last time I was there the visitors book was being signed by a French couple who wrote "Sorry Horatio". The local pub was built in 1637 as The Plough but was renamed in 1798 The Lord Nelson following the Battle of the Nile. Nelson held a dinner here for the men of the village before joining HMS Agamemnon. It was on my itinerary but Google now says it is now closed !! We shall have to be content with passing the largest barn in East Anglia !

Holkham Hall, the home of the Coke family, Earls of Leicester, was built between 1734 and 67 in the Palladian style and little altered today. It sits in a magnificent park (designed by Humphrey Repton) complete with lake, temple, ice house, walled gardens and obelisk. In 1777 it was inherited by Thomas Coke, a great agriculturist and politician, he was an MP for 53 years. An impressive monument to him can be seen to the north of the house. We will ride through the park and have a stop to view the house, lake and monument.

Wells-next-the-sea was an important sea port, particularly for exporting grain and malt until the harbour silted up in late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has always been a flourishing fishing port, crabs now being the main catch and its old town and extensive beach attracts many tourists. We have time for a visit to the beach, to explore the town and to have lunch. Jo, high tide is at 12.40 p.m.

Walsingham has been a place of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages – one of the 4 great shrines of Christendom alongside Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago da Compostella. In 1061 the lady of the manor had visions of the Virgin and built a replica of the holy house in Nazareth. This was at the time of the crusades when it was impossible to visit Nazareth so English Christians adopted Walsingham. Around it grew a large monastery and in 1347 the Franciscans built a Friary. In these times it was visited by thousands of pilgrims including many royalty; Henry 3rd came 12 times. All this came to an abrupt end with the Reformation in 1538, the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burned and the shrine destroyed. The shrine was restored in 1931 with lovely gardens. We can stop here and also see the remains of the monastery & museum if you wish. For secular alternatives there are many medieval timber-framed buildings, the old prison and a tea shop. Pilgrimage revival began in 1897 to the Slipper Chapel at Houghton, built ca. 1350, restored 1896 (we will also stop here) which is now the RC National Shrine.