

Gresham's School, Holt (formerly Holt Grammar School)

A recent history of Gresham's School (*I Will Plant Me A Tree* by S Benson with M Crossley Evans – pub James & James 2002) contains such an interesting photograph that we obtained a copy from the School's Archivist for publication here. It shows an open air Fives wall at the Old School House premises in Holt, with two short side walls set at an obtuse angle to the front wall. The side walls have a gracefully curved top. A bar is painted along the front and side walls. Before the structure is a large paved playing surface. Dating from about 1901, the photograph shows four junior boys in jackets and Eton collars posed as if playing with stringed rackets.

Further information on what became of this structure is lacking, but an old Greshamian of 1960s vintage recalls some senior boys of his day unsuccessfully asking the then Headmaster to reopen some Eton Fives courts for use. Sadly these do not feature in the published history referred to above.

Ian Roberts



The Fives wall at the Old School House, Holt Grammar School, c1901.