

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Jimmy Fowell

Vice-Chairman: Pat Cubitt

CLUB MATTERS

December 2016

What's the difference between sweetcorn and Mars Bars ? - this is the cryptic question *Sophie Bambridge* has posed in anticipation of her *talk tomorrow (Tuesday) night at The Feathers - 7.30 as usual*. I've never eaten a cob in batter so I'm left guessing but I'm sure it will be worth turning up to hear the answer from one of our industry's bright young voices.

Our new Chairman has been bashing his little black book to find our speaker for *January (Tuesday 10th)* and Jimmy Fowell has reached as far as Aylsham in his search. *Nigel Meyer* is Chief Operating Officer at Brit Ltd. which is an insurance firm specializing in underwriting unusual and complex risks such as cyber attacks, terrorism and kidnapping. I recall Brit sponsoring cricket including The Oval and the England team for a number of years. The firm has recently been taken over by a Canadian rival and this will be an insight into a dynamic, global scene which is likely to be all the more significant post Brexit.

For *February* Mark Cook has scored a coup in securing *Steve Hart* who was recently named Pig Farmer of the Year. His company - Norfolk Free Range - raises 13,000 sows on fields around Wisbech and Downham Market where he adheres to high welfare standards. It is intended that we should break with tradition and hold this talk on *Wednesday 15th February* so that romantics among you can still treat your 'significant other' to a Valentine treat on the Tuesday.

Following the porcine theme *David Henley* from The Eagles, sorry *Easton*, grew up on a pig farm in Yorkshire and has been Principal of the Norfolk - and now Suffolk - Agricultural College since last year. He's into motocross and sailing and another live wire like our other speakers this season. Thanks to Jack Hammond for securing such a good speaker for *Tuesday, 14th March*.

Another date for your diaries is *Ladies Night on Friday, 5th May* when *Baroness Byford* of Rothley will be our guest speaker. Hazel, as Richard Brooks says we might call her, was made a peer in 1996 having started off as a poultry fanner. She was Shadow DEFRA Minister in The Lords during the Blair Years and has served on numerous committees as well as having been Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Honorary Canon at Leicester Cathedral. An all round 'good egg' one might, but shouldn't, say.

Finally, following on from the recommendation of '*Bessingham*' for your Christmas book list I should give another plug for '*Breaking New Ground*' which is an impressive tome on fanning in Norfolk through the twentieth century. It is written by Alec Douet, a retired grain trader living in Aylsham, and *Michael Pollitt* has done a grand job in getting a second limited edition printed. Meanwhile Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year to one and all.



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