

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Jimmy Fowell

Vice-Chairman: Pat Cubitt

CLUB MATTERS

December 2017

We are privileged to have *Guy Smith, Vice President of the National Farmers' Union* as speaker at our next meeting on **at 7.30 on Tuesday, 12th December**. Like his friend **Richard Brooks** he hails from Essex and went to Cirencester; we have extended an invitation to all NFU members to join us at The Feathers. **Bee Keinball** is a livewire businesswoman who is also Honorary Director of the Suffolk Show and she is our speaker on **9th January**. I gave **Nigel Meyer** from Aylsham a build-up when he was due to come and speak to us last winter. Unfortunately he had to cancel so we are glad he can finally come on **13th February** to enlighten us about the extraordinary things BRIT Insurance cover even if they have switched their sponsorship from cricket to tennis.

The season will be rounded off on **13th March** by **Martin Boiling from the Woodland Trust** whose visit is opportune when ash dieback and public access are such hot topics; Martin has been involved with the establishment of a First World War Centenary Wood on Epsom Downs.

Jake Fiennes got things off to a good start last month and **Jimmy Fowell** is keen for us to take up his offer of a visit to the Raveningham Estate. However this will not be next year as we already have the **James Dyson agricultural empire** lined up for **3rd July**. The Old Greshamian and prominent Brexiteer has assembled a vast and impressive estate, oddly named Beeswax Dyson Farming, on The Wolds south of Lincoln and again we are indebted to Richard Brooks for the introduction. Meanwhile **William Youngs** has been booking tickets for our **Trip to Holland from 5th to 8th June**. With some friends from Stalham Farmers' Club joining us places have been going fast so anyone still hoping to make the plane from Norwich should contact William or me as soon as possible. Anyone who has registered but not yet provided their details and £150 deposit should also act immediately for fear of missing out.

On **Tuesday 6th February** **Brown & Co.** are holding another *Spring Agricultural Update* to which all are welcome — 4 for 4.30 at Holt Rugby Club. Later that month **Stuart Ross**, now a grandfather, will be trying to find the key to finally beating Stalham at 10 pin bowling — again **4.30 on Friday 23rd** at North Walsham. Poor **Michael Pollitt** has had a recurrence of his health problem and we wish him a prompt recovery in time to join us as a virgin tripper to the Netherlands. Talking of where my Christmas book choice for this year is a short but glossy tome 'The Flemish Bond' which is by local nonagenarian Christopher Hanson-Smith and charts the connections between East Anglia and our 'Close and Ancient Neighbours'.