

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Bill Poortvliet

*Chairman:* Jimmy Fowell

*Vice-Chairman:* Pat Cubitt

## CLUB MATTERS

DECEMBER 2018

Online fraud to the Stone Age. On *Tuesday* we shall be delving back into pre — history when *Jim Beckerkleg, a Norfolk field archaeologist*, will tell us about finds he has made in the area around Tyby including flint axeheads one of which is extraordinarily old. My first home in Norfolk was near Cley-next-the-Sea and called Hammer Hill - allegedly because of a similar find although I thought it was another axehead and the hill that was claimed to have been a Bronze Age barrow may have merely been a geological feature. Our county clearly has a fascinating story to tell with places like Seahenge and the Happisburgh footprints and a lot more to be revealed — *starting at Z30 in The Feathers*.

At our latest committee meeting not one member admitted to having ever visited Liverpool. This probably says more about us than it does about Merseyside but our **Chairman** seems to have it on his bucket list. Unfortunately The Cotswolds and now Staffordshire haven't worked out although we hope to visit the JCBamford factory and/or estate *en route*. **Jimmy** has already looked into hotel bookings in the 2008 European Capital of Culture and is considering extending the trip to 3 nights away during the first week in June. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with knowledge of that part of the world and also whether you are interested in coming.

The Lawns House, not to be confused with the Lawns Hotel in Station Road, is a big old house in Holt between the western roundabout and the Budgens car park. This was the home of local historian Jane Hales whose book 'The East Wind' I have referred to before as 'an unusual guide' to Norfolk people and places — a minor classic. Her follow up was 'Looking at Norfolk' and twenty three years after she died her great niece recently found a box of pristine copies of this amusingly illustrated 1971 publication which is my Christmas recommendation. Miss Hales ventures back into the eighteenth century and quotes Arthur Young who chronicled the state of farming throughout the east of England. When traversing the Cromer Ridge from Sheringham up to Holt he describes "a flat, disagreeable country" although he was impressed by Bayfield and Stiffkey while finding the farming around Wells and towards Aylsham more to his liking. She adds a further cast of characters including one particular Norfolk `bor':-

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