

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Jimmy Fowell

Vice-Chairman: Pat Cubitt

CLUB MATTERS

April 2019

The country may not know which way it is heading but we are definitely on course for *Liverpool*. The itinerary for our trip between *Tuesday 4th and Friday 7th June* is attached and this can also be viewed on our website www.holtfarmers.club along with news both ancient and modern. Chairman **Jimmy Fowell** has been busy putting together an exciting mixture of research and recreation with visits to the Bamford and Grosvenor Estates as well as the pop delights of the 2008 European Capital for Culture. Please could anyone who has yet to book a place please confirm with me and send a cheque for £150 to **Tony Williams** as soon as possible ?

Thanks are due to Jimmy's imminent successor **Pat Cubitt** for bringing us into the twenty first century with the aforementioned website and audio-visual improvements. He has also been busy, as usual, in confirming the menu and arrangements for our *Annual Dinner at The Links Country Park Hotel at West Runton on Friday 7th May*. The guest speaker is local vet Graham Duncanson who has developed a second career as a writer of frisky novels e.g. 'Mating Lions'. Please follow Pat's directions by his deadline of 21st April; he's on 01263 712611 and info@holtfarmers.club

For those of you who have not been receiving my previous *Club Matters* by email I can report on a good season of winter speakers with an eclectic range of topics. For me the highlights were Emily Norton, Norfolk's ubiquitous agricultural exemplar and pundit, along with a talk on Norfolk's litany of treason from the Head of History at Gresham's. We have also maintained high standards on the sporting front with a repeat of our double over Stalham at bowls. The one downer has been the failure to find the Adams & Howling Trophy which **Stuart Ross** and our bowlers should have raised aloft but it has gone missing since we won it last year.

In *June* we shall be trying to retain the silverware for the *Clay Pigeon Shooting Match* against Stalham. As ever **Charlie Mack**, **Tony Williams** and **Charles Skinner** will be pleased to hear from any hotshot available. It is hoped that we can also hold the *Farm Walk in June* - a bit earlier than usual. Jake Fiennes invited us to Raveningham when he was the manager there and we are hoping that the invitation still stands now that he has taken over at *Holkham*.

Committee member **Mark Cook** has generously volunteered to become the club's RABI representative and their annual quiz is at East Tuddenham on 10th April. Meanwhile **Richard Brooks**, our senior sage, has been cleaning out his attic and found some interesting statistics which will be posted on the website. These go back to the First World War with details on the fluctuations in the number of horses, to Victorian times when the Repeal of the Corn Laws may have some parallels with Brexit and to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when Norfolk farmworkers were the best paid in the East of England – and perhaps beyond ?



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