

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Bill Poortvliet

*Chairman:* Pat Cubitt

*Vice-Chairman:* Andrew Ross

[www.holtfarmers.club](http://www.holtfarmers.club)

## CLUB MATTERS

December 2019

Apologies for our failure to be politically correct last month. By inviting Duncan Baker, the current Tory candidate for North Norfolk, to address us at our November meeting we ignored Karen Ward (Lib Dems), Harry Gwynne (Brexit Party) and Emma Cortlett (Labour) – other candidates are available in other constituencies. Mr Baker is a former Mayor of Holt and the best friend of a committee member but there was no partisan intent. After having Charlie Graham-Wood in October we have run out of stepsons of the late Mike Baker of Bakers & Larners and C. T. Baker's fame so that **Alex Inman is next up at The Feathers at 7.30 on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December** and I have mentioned him to you over the last year in connection with his founding of the UK Farmer Group Discussion Network that he launched last year. Based at the University of Exeter, Alex believes that farmers must be at the core of land use policy decision making and has been involved in badger culling, biodiversity and other schemes. In the New Year (**14<sup>th</sup> January**) we have **Bridget Greenwood** whose talk on **Bitcoins** etc. was postponed from November and on **11<sup>th</sup> February** we are lucky to have **Dominic Reid OBE** who is chief executive of the **Invictus Games** Foundation. To round off the season on **10<sup>th</sup> March** we have **Norfolk Police** to give us, *inter alia*, an overview on Operation Randall which is their scheme to deal with rural criminality.

The sporting season starts on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February** when **Stuart Ross's** bowlers are out to make it a hat trick of winning both the 10 pin and conventional formats against Stalham; **4 for 4.30 at Rossi's in North Walsham** – supper included. Investigations are still afoot to confirm **Austria as our summer destination** whether or not we're still in the EU by that time. Likewise with our planned re-vamping of what used to be our Ladies' Night which we are looking to hold in June. Last year we had hopes of making Shropshire the destination for our annual trip before **Jimmy Fowell** sorted out a slightly longer sortie into the north-west. Now Shropshire's back on the radar but this time it's Shropshire's in Cambridgeshire. Guy Shropshire died last year having founded one of Britain's best known and most successful multinational suppliers in field-grown salad and vegetable production. His son John, another OBE, now runs the business that farms some 3500 acres primarily on West Norfolk fenland around Downham Market but also with interest in land around Martham at the opposite end of our county. That man **Richard Brooks** has again been instrumental in securing us a Grand Day Out.

We held a minute's silence for Edwin Jones at last month's meeting which happened to be the day of his funeral. As well as offering condolences to his son **Ben** we also wish him well after his back operation. Meanwhile I hope some of you have contributed to Lady Anne Glenconner reaching number 7 in the bestselling book charts by following my recommendation to buy her raunchy memoirs "Lady in Waiting". If you can't make it on Tuesday may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year?



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