

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

April / May 2020

Pat Cubitt has started to receive your *photographic entries* and the more the merrier please. My skills in this department are unlikely to impress so these 3 offerings have a twist.

- A. The first one is a local scene to or about which I have referred – too often I'm sure – in earlier newsletters; please identify.
- B. The second is another scene in which most of you should recognize the shop at the south-west corner of Corpusty Common with, in the bottom left corner, a *milestone* rudely squeezed under the hedge. This is 6 miles from Holt and 15 from Norwich, which should be evident on the stone but is largely illegible, on the bypassed section of the B1149 road beyond Corpusty Mill where the bridge – as I recently reminded you - was washed away in 1912. The services of the Norfolk group that has been restoring milestones around the county like the one on the Holt/Dereham B1110 east of Thornage may be required – unless any of you feel otherwise ?
- C. My third shot is a couple of miles further down the Bure valley where a tributary feeds in past Oulton Hall alongside Hall Road and Oulton Chapel/Meeting House. The former is the house that Bolton Agnew has spent £6 million restoring since the calamitous fire in 2015. On the Streetview I have highlighted the signpost pointing up Spa Lane which is a long avenue rising up towards Irmingland Hall. Mark Igoe, the late local historian from Sharrington, relates the claim that Oliver Cromwell joined his son-in-law in a walk down here passing the ruinous parish church to the north *en route*. It was his suggestion that the Puritans should have their own chapel which allegedly led to Oulton Chapel being built – albeit the best part of a century later. However I do not believe Old Warty Face could have claimed credit for *Oulton Spa* the remnant stonework of which may still be found, again covered in moss, in the undergrowth by this junction. This features on Faden's Map of 1797 although he calls it Oulton Spaw while the Ordnance Survey terms it a Mineral (or chalybeate meaning iron-bearing) Spring. Unfortunately it never caught on and Igoe bemoans the fact that Oulton never became another Cheltenham or Buxton. As for Oulton Chapel - sited to the north-east beyond Leechnipit Plantation that used to be known as Spa Common - this was restored by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust which is now seeking to add 180 places to the graveyard. "In the midst of life we are in death" or should that be the other way round ?

Tim

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