

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

November 2020

Another upset has occurred in 2020 with William Mack finally being deposed as our reigning overall *Malting Barley Champion*. He was still able to take the Spring Barley title with a sample of Diablo which Jim Alston also grew to finish runner up and Melton Harrold grew Laureate to come third. However Graham de Feyter with his Winter Barley sample of Flagon deposed William who came third with his Craft sample while the runner up here as well as overall was Roger Hall who grew Electrum. Our president Bill Poortvliet has provided a summary of these results and he, in turn, must be thanked for his efforts in chasing samples along with John Cragg. Bill was up for re-election to our committee this year along with Stuart Ross and both have agreed to continue for the time being. Whether Bill continues on the committee and/or as President can be determined next year. Meanwhile Pat Cubitt has also written to everyone explaining our club's situation and any comments or suggestions on the way ahead to help our club's future will be appreciated. As we re-enter lockdown I can add the *Addington Fund* as another charity which might be able to help anyone who is struggling. Their helpline is *Farming Help* on 03000 111 999, *RABI* are on 0808 281 9490 and *YANA* are on 0300 323 0400.

Dougie Wright was a well known farmer and entrepreneur from the Cromer Ridge who died aged 90 a couple of months ago. His pig unit was at Mill Farm near the Gingerbread Lane turning off the A148 down to Sheringham via Holway Road close to Gresham Gravel's East Beckham Quarry and Gibbet Lane to the east and arrays of solar panels to the south. He had a bowling green here near the site of an open trestle mill from Tudor times which was replaced by at least two postmills. I prize a large Victorian print by Henry Bright even though he used a lot of artistic licence and the other picture I have attached shows the mill in the early 1900s; steam power was then added but operation ceased in 1922. At just over 300 feet above sea level these are reckoned to have been the second highest windmills in Norfolk narrowly beaten by Briningham smockmill which is better known as Bellevue Tower. In the 1980s Dougie fought a long battle to get permission for Pinewoods a mile to the west which is a place our club regularly used for bowls matches and other functions such as Ladies' Nights. Sadly his son Billy has now announced that the bowling facility is closing which is hard on the heels of Rossi's announcement that they are doing the same after 42 years. After another lengthy struggle in the early 2000s Dougie also succeeded in establishing Willow Fishing Lakes on the opposite, landward side of Bodham after he had gone to appeal.

This brings us back to the Shrive Site for bunker, barn and re-wilding. Pat Cubitt is also Chairman of Bodham Parish Council in succession to Will Beeson, presumably because the latter is moving having apparently sold the adjacent Franklins Farm this summer for £1.85 million or thereabouts. Pat and his fellow councillors were generally OK with the proposals but the NNDC officers were not and the application was roundly rejected. On the one hand this seemed to me an interesting application which could have achieved beneficial side effects whereas, on the other, it may have been a bit greedy to apply for two dwellings. On my unofficial *recce* I disturbed a large bird of prey in the ruins and the intrusion into the natural landscape was the main reason for refusal. Shrive Junior is asking for a meeting with the NNDC officers before deciding whether to appeal as his father John did repeatedly. Perhaps he should consult John Major who managed to obtain a somewhat controversial consent at the top of the hill above Weybourne Station almost twenty years ago.

Tim

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