

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

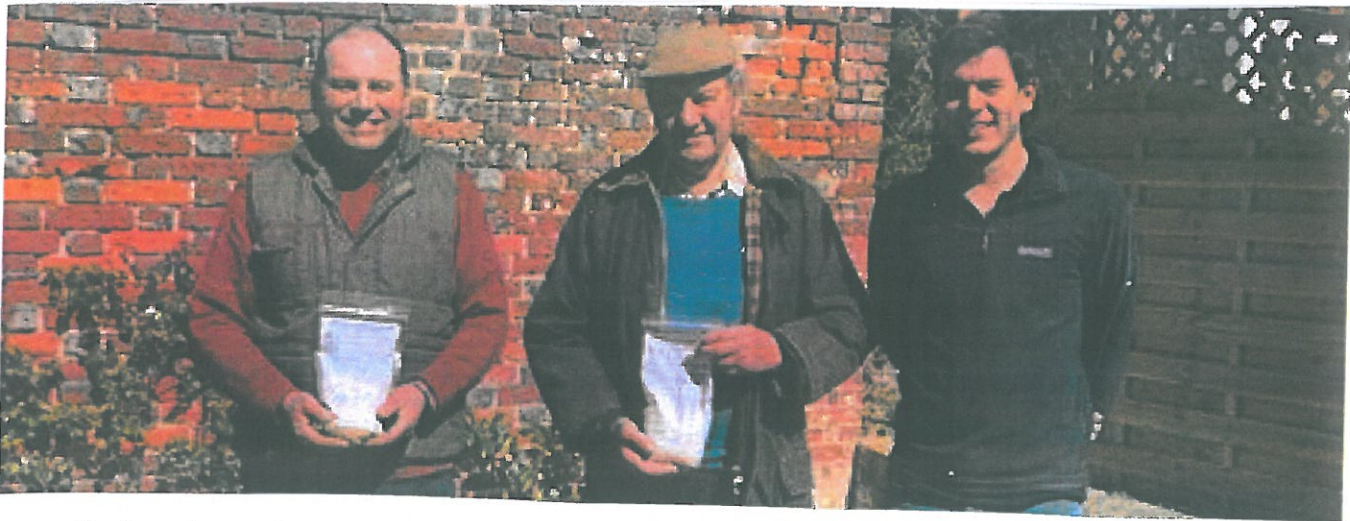
Vice Chairman: Andrew Ross

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

## CLUB MATTERS

April 2021

Finally some genuine club news to report via **Chris Borrett** and **Michael Pollitt**. For the past twenty years there has been a head to head between Holt's and Stalham's champion malting barley growers. **Bob King** has been the judge throughout this time and showed the Judgment of Solomon in sharing the spoils for the first time. **Graham de Feyter** from Edingthorpe has regularly gained a podium place in our competitions and went up against his son Edward of C H Callow at East Ruston. At 86 Graham is still very much involved and is pictured here with Edward and grandson Andrew who has bravely been building up his pig enterprise. With both Flagon samples coming from the same farm it seems a wholly fair outcome. Plans are afoot to arrange the clay pigeon shooting match and **Tony Williams** hopes to fix a date once he can be sure that it can be combined with a meal. Please get in touch with him (details at footer) or **Charlie Mack** to confirm your availability. Likewise **Richard Brooks** can confirm our Fen Day Out once *covid* regulations are eased sufficiently and clearly we hope both of these events can happen before harvest.



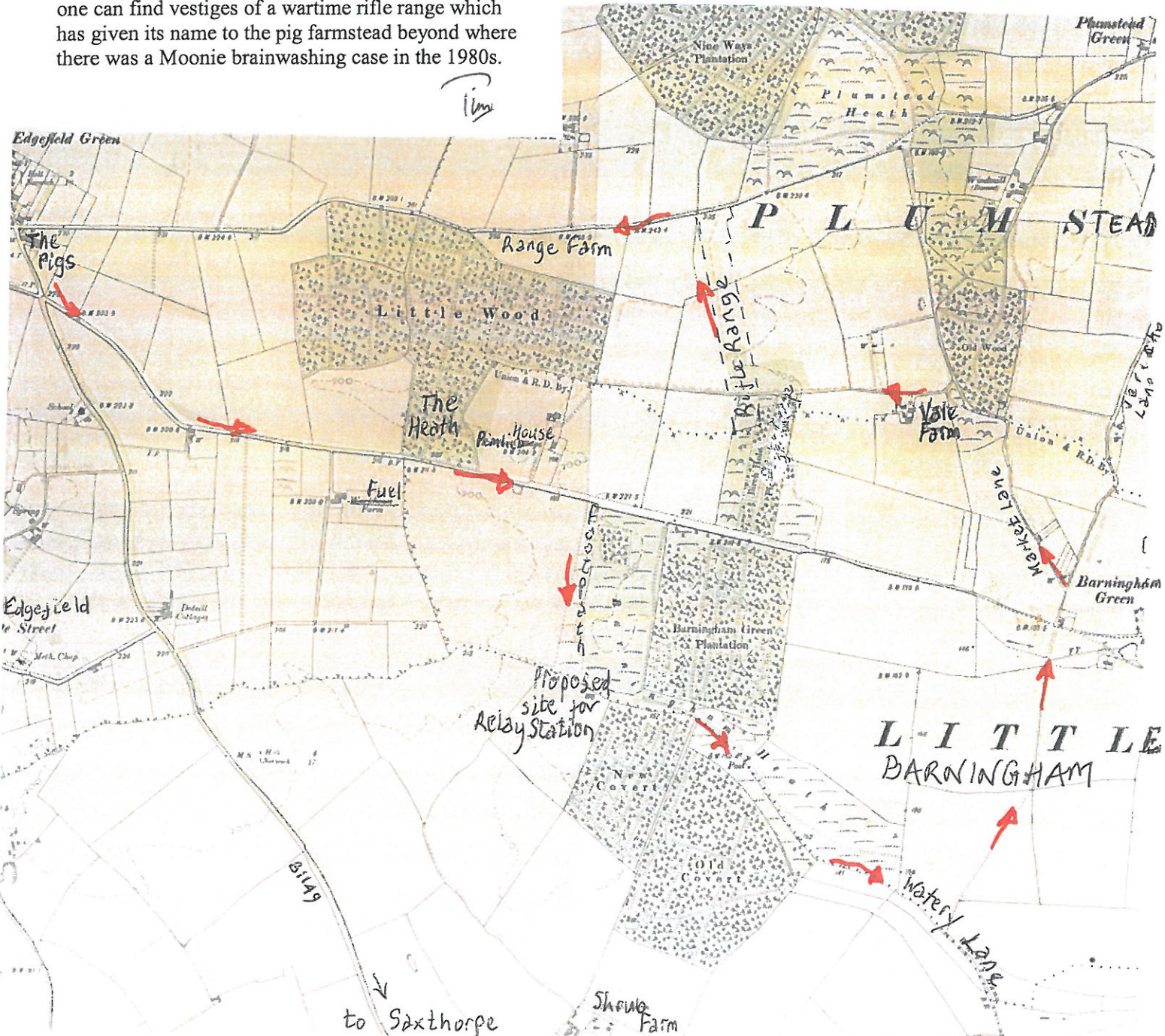
Back at the ranch **Mark Cook**, our local correspondent for the Upper Bure, has alerted me to a current planning application in my old stomping ground between Corpusty and Heydon. This proposes a new building housing 32,000 hens laying 10 million eggs a year while producing 833 tons of guano with a manager's dwelling alongside. They are described as free range but I'm not sure that this means they go outside as it may just mean that they are not battery hens. Methinks this will be a similar case to the pig housing application at Aldborough which is still to be determined. The proposed location is next to the dismantled Bluestone branch line on the borders of Corpusty, Heydon and Oulton parishes as well as that between North Norfolk and Broadland Districts. One of the nearest neighbours at Irmingland Hall is David Joll, the former Executive Chairman at Bernard Matthews. Significantly I feel, he is opposed as are the Oulton parishioners who will be downwind of the enterprise. I'm not sure whether Poultry Potentate **Jimmy Fowell**, another mile to the north-east, is of like mind. Best of all, the local councillor who has 'called in' the application so that it will be determined at committee rather than at officer level, is called Gregory Peck.

Continuing the avian theme there is a pleasant footpath / green lane immediately to the east called Spink's Lane. This connects the Eagle Lodge gateway on the B1149 Heydon Straight with The Walk / Spa Lane which Old Warty Face took to the aforementioned chalybeate spring near Bolton Agnew's restored Oulton Hall. Apparently spink is the Norfolk name for a chaffinch and a herring-spink is a goldcrest as tired migrating birds would sometimes alight on a fishing boat. Perhaps our member **Ian Spinks**, who was held up in his move into Erpingham by a pair of nesting stock doves, can confirm?

Meanwhile, following on from his shin kicking story, **Richard Youngs** relates another rustic tale of 'goings on' at his Ash Tree Farm in the middle of Bacon(Pig?)sthorpe. His story goes that *in the days when smuggling was at its height the gangs used to borrow horses from various farms on their route to pull the wagons. These would be returned later but were of course exhausted so would not be fit for work the next day. On one of these occasions the farmer at Ash Tree Farm was woken during the night by the smugglers in his stable. He said to his wife "They can't have my horses tonight, I need them for work tomorrow."* He went down to the stable and was never seen again!



Fortunately Hempstead village has been spared from the threat of the Orsted cable coming through and **William Mack** explains that the relay station with which Edgefield was threatened a mile to the south-east of The Pigs will be no longer be necessary because the current will be AC rather than DC. This popular hostelry was formerly called the Frere Arms but was also once part of the Bacon family's estate so that The Pigs may have been a pun and the Three Pigs may be a misreading of Faden's Map of 1797. After our late member Richard Gibbs removed the roadside trees Iain Wilson, the current owner, has invested a great amount in the place although unfortunately this has not remedied the ugly architectural appearance. However it has become very popular (*covid* permitting) even if I don't think you can still trade a brace of pheasants for a pint as you once could. Travelling east towards Little Barningham one passes Workhouse Farm which is now more tactfully called Fuel Farm and Edgefield has a Fuel Fund for the poor of the parish which Ian Ross chaired for many years. One then enters Barningham parish that was part of Serjeant Frere's Estate and known as The Heath in Victorian times but now as Little Wood. Beyond is a rather grand pair of cottages dating from that time known as Pimlico House, perhaps originally built as shooting lodges but subsequently amalgamated, at the western end of the Barningham Estate and which sold recently. Then there is a public footpath running south past where the relay station would have been built, continuing as Watery Lane across Barningham Heath and curving south between Shrub and Mossy Mere Farms. This is close to Barningham Green where **Mike and Gareth Daniels** farm. Jericho and Market Lanes run northwards from there towards Plumstead overlooking where Vale Farm stood until it was razed to the ground about twenty years ago – perhaps not the best idea in light of the Coalition Government's radical legislation on old farmbuildings. To the west one can find vestiges of a wartime rifle range which has given its name to the pig farmstead beyond where there was a Moonie brainwashing case in the 1980s.



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