

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

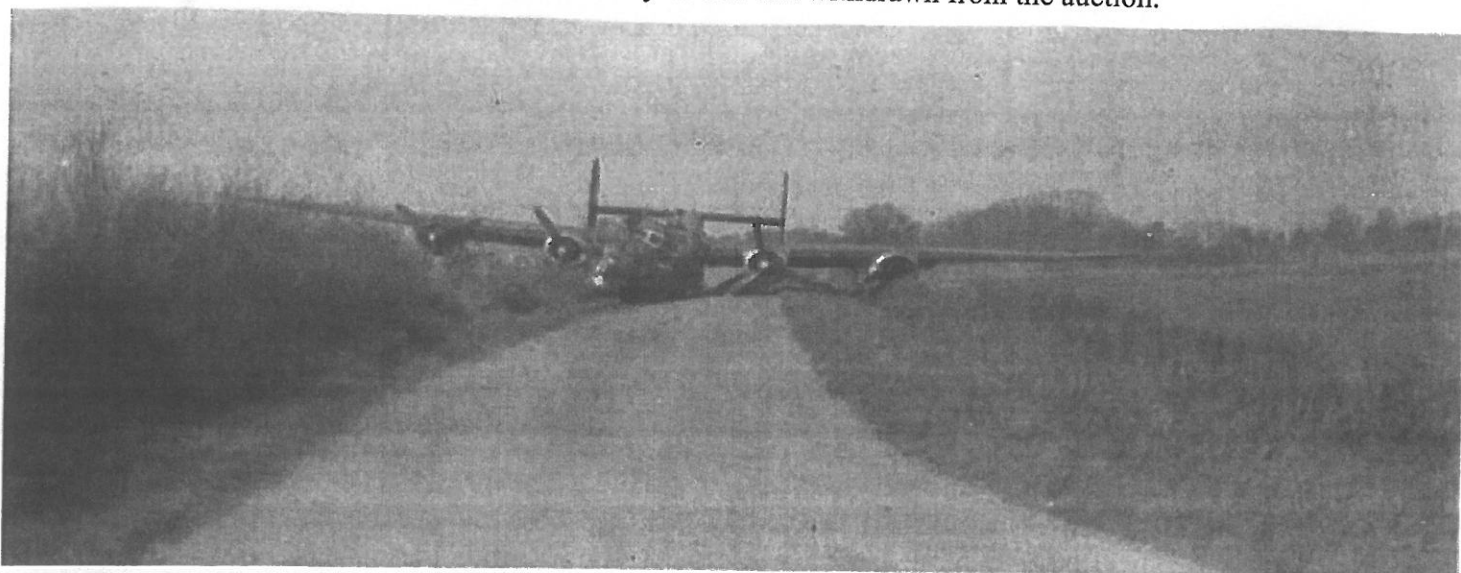
Vice Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

June 2021

Attached is an invitation from Tilia, a Glencore company, for a harvest assistant at Addison Farm so please alert any family member or friend who might be interested. This is on the former Foulsham Airfield south of Hindolveston. Like Bluestone 'Drome at Oulton it was shared between Bomber Command and the Yanks and was unusual in being fitted with FIDO which was a fog dispersal system using fires at the sides of the runways. It had closed for military flying in 1946 but crop dusters used it in the late 1970s and, allegedly, the old fire station was later used for producing adult movies. Chicken housing, agricultural storage depots and a camel have occupied parts of the site as well as Rainbow Meadows. This claimed to be a horse sanctuary near Dukehouse Bridge and a pillbox on the road between the two villages but turned out to be the scene of criminal neglect. After a RSPCA prosecution it was due to be sold earlier this year but was withdrawn from the auction.

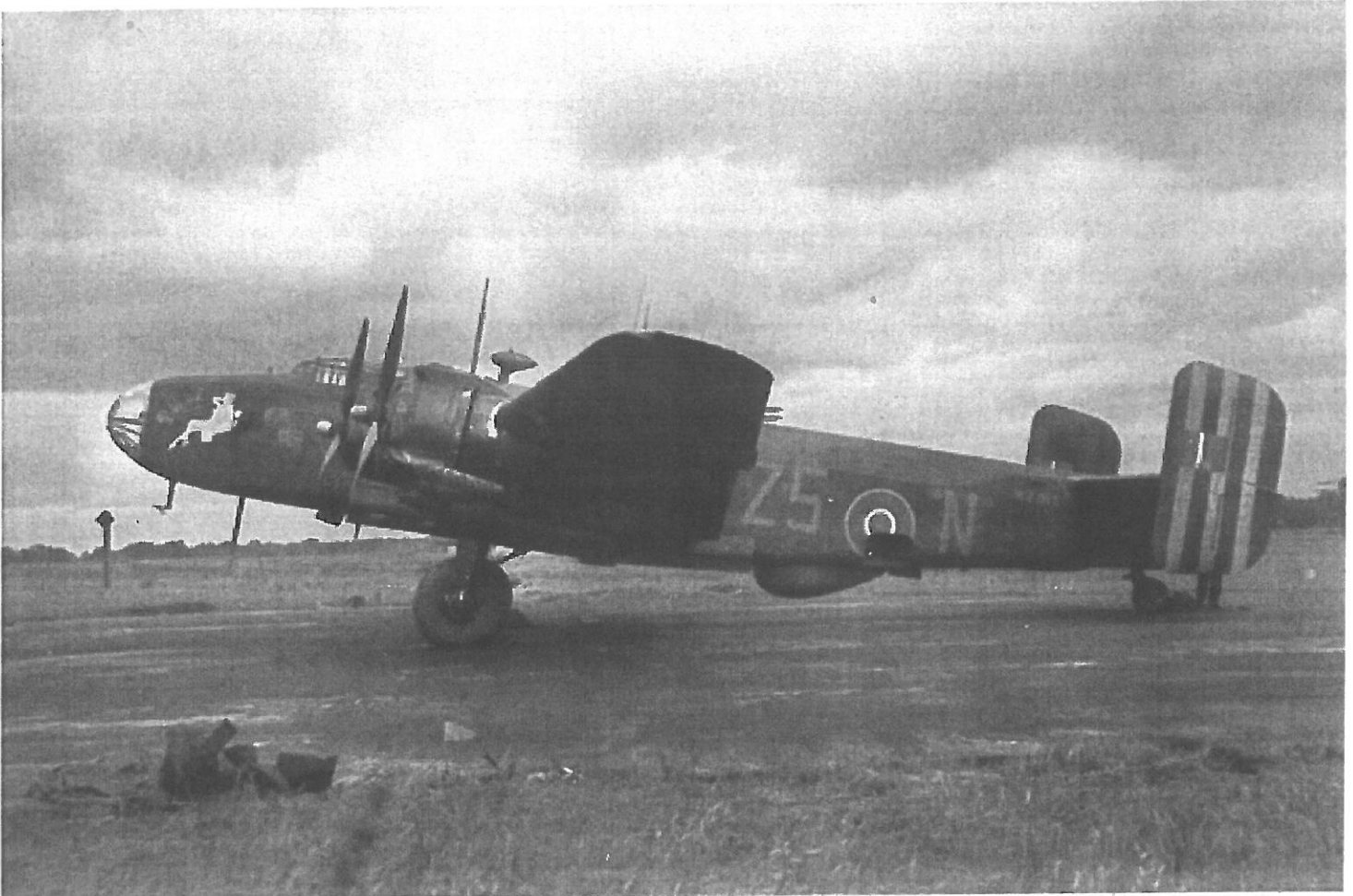


A crashed B-24 Liberator (DC-F, serial number 42-95464) of the 577th Bomb Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group near Foulsham, 14 February 1945 (Roger Freeman Collection, [IWM/AmericanAirMuseum](#)).



Handley Page Halifax B Mark III, MZ817 'DT-O', of No. 192 Squadron RAF after crash-landing while taking off from Foulsham, Norfolk, on a radar surveillance sortie in the evening of 9 December 1944. 22 mission symbols are visible by the "Pete the Penguin" insignia on the nose (IWM (HU 60601)).

This backwater was where a controversial application was made for a Wind Turbine between Hindolveston and Guestwick. Opponents raised £50,000 to fight the proposal which was eventually refused in 2009, largely on the grounds that the road network was inadequate to cope with the traffic. Two famous sons of 'Hindol' are Trigger from *Only Fools and Horses* who, as the late Roger Lloyd – Pack, bought a cottage at The Dyes when he was working on the *Go Between* which was filmed on the Melton Constable Estate. The other is Winston Harrold of Nethergate Farm who used to perform as The Singing Farmer; his father Geoffrey had bought Melton Constable Hall from the Duke of Westminster in 1959. There are two churches here after the tower of the old one collapsed in 1892 while the old workhouse has been transformed into a £1.5 million property.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Foulsham, England. 1945. 'Jane' (NO. MZ913), a Handley Page Halifax B Mark III aircraft 'N' of No. 462 Squadron RAAF. The bomber flew over 100 trips and was used in the first operations of the squadron. It was finally consigned to the wreckers in Cardiff, Wales on 1945-05-04. No 462 Squadron Halifax aircraft had vertical yellow stripes on their tail fins for in flight identification (Ronald M. Hines, via [AWM](#)).

Guestwick has connections with Lord Protector Cromwell through his appropriately named friend Richard Worts (warts?). He was a Puritan priest who commissioned the nonconformist Chapel in 1652. The poor man was subjected to Royalist revenge after The Restoration and in 1665 he was imprisoned in a dreadful section of Norwich Castle known as 'the hole in the wall'. The dismantled M&GNR passenger line of our friend William Marriott continued the section from Sheringham via Holt, Melton Constable and Guestwick to the Themelthorpe Loop. It closed in 1959 after when the sharpest curve on any line in the UK was installed to join freight trains from Norwich City (mainly prefabricated concrete items from Lenwade) onto the residual eastern section of the Great Eastern Railway linking Reepham and Wroxham via Cawston and Aylsham. This was referred to as the 'round the world route' that avoided a journey all the way to Cromer to get from one side of Norwich to the other (Norwich Thorpe). Marriott's Way now passes this way where badgers have created the largest sett in Norfolk as the materials imported to build the lines are firm enough to support their extensive network of tunnels.

Heading back towards Foulsham we pass Keeling Hall Estate which was surrounded by land owned by the East Anglian Real Property Co. Ltd. with their characteristic barns and Sir John White. Here the hall had disappeared and the Stimpson family were able to get permission for a replacement that they sold to the late Jark gangmaster John Buckman. Ending back at the fine settlement of Foulsham there was another workhouse on Cockle Green where resided two girls who a Mr Cubitt had employed 'crow keeping' for which he paid them 8s 0d for four weeks in March and April 1832. The imposing Old Rectory stands next to the fourteenth century parish Church of Holy Innocents and there are many other Listed Buildings and places of interest. However one titbit is that emigrants from here ended up in California and Johnny Cash performed his legendary concert in Folsom prison.



Meanwhile the prospects of an imminent trip to Shropshires appear to be fading if the lockdown is extended on Tuesday but **Richard Brooks** has kept the line of communication open. We wish Ben Youngs our best wishes for the imminent arrival which caused him to withdraw from the Lions trip. He came off the bench on Saturday to replace our President's grandson and help Leicester to a narrow away win against Wasps. Fortunately there was no repeat of the previous finale when big brother Tom was unhappy with the referee in a controversial defeat by Bristol.

Tim

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