

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Richard Brooks

*Chairman:* Pat Cubitt

*Vice-Chairman:* Andrew Ross

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

## CLUB MATTERS

### March 2022

A really good turnout to hear Christine Tacon – thank you - and I hope we can replicate those numbers for **Rob Mutimer on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 at Holt Rugby Club** as per usual. We put Christine up at The Feathers which will soon be closing for refurbishment and, although they have not ruled out our being able to return next winter season, the chances seem remote. This Chestnut Group has now bought The Lawns in Station Road to add to The Maltings at Weybourne, which is currently being overhauled, as well as The Globe at Wells. At least they may provide competition for Iain Wilson's Byfords empire where he can charge £170 for his 'Posh B & B'.

I keep getting drawn back to 'Bluestonia' at the other end of the Heydon Straight from the still undetermined poultry application. I have taken you in Oliver Cromwell's footsteps from Irmingland to Heydon Hall where he was chased up an oak tree by a bull. We have covered the Heydon Affray in 1826 when the poachers also ran into trouble with the local landowners. Then with the advent of the railways in Victorian times we saw the poor escaping their harsh conditions on a day trip from Corpusty & Saxthorpe station to Yarmouth via Bluestone Station. It was planes rather than trains which left their mark here in the twentieth century with Royal and United States Air Forces operating from Bluestone Drome. There were fatal crashes and bombers slewed off the runway in the vicinity of Bluestone Station which would close within 20 years of the war ending. Much of the Oulton airfield has been reclaimed for agriculture but the twenty first century is ushering in 63 acres of blue glass between the old station (now known as Bluestone Cottage) and the crossroads on the B1149 north of the humpbacked bridge before the Woodrow roundabout. There are already solar panels to the north and Docking Farm Solar Ltd. have now gained permission after an initial refusal and fair amount of controversy. The size was reduced by over a quarter to preserve the better quality land for farming and the consent is for 40 years so it all may be reclaimed after that.

Meanwhile after 23 months the gloves are off over the pig farm proposals at Aldborough. Save Aldborough Village Experience, the well organized local protest group, have accused the applicant and their agent for ten lies in their submissions. Knowing the terrible problems that are currently besetting the pig sector it would be interesting to hear from Rob Mutimer or anyone else if there is support for the Filby proposals and a different perspective to the NIMBY one. The problem has been compounded by the inefficiency of the planning system which was already too slow before the pandemic struck. Broadland District Council locates the aforementioned solar farm as "Land North of the High Street, Cawston" which is accurate, I guess, although one and a half miles north. Finally our President is still pressing the cause of mental health and asked me to include Chris Hill's excellent article in the EDP for which we thank him.

Tim

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