

# 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

### August 2022

I've been hearing mixed reports on harvest with the general impression that, considering the drought, quality has been fair although yields are clearly down. **Bill Poortvliet** and **John Cragg** have been busy and report that there should be good competition for **Bob King** to judge for our A.G.M. at Michaelmas. Perhaps **Willy Mack** will be able to regain the silverware and I was alerted to his Hempstead Hall home last month. The Times featured a five mile circular walk from Holt Country Park which passed through there taking in the thatched parish church and Court Green. That was where Willy's uncle Bob, a club member, lived and the article quoted the plaque in the churchyard, erected after his death aged 80 in 1999, saying "*whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe*". He is pictured at the unveiling of the village sign in 1977 with Molly Mack planting the tree (which subsequently died). Willy is in attendance in the Bay City Rollers style alongside his cousin Stephen. This is where the Hempstead turning forks off the road from Holt to Baconsthorpe (beyond Hempstead Mill which is slowly being renovated) and is known as Court Green which was the ancient equivalent of a magistrate's or leet court. It was also known as Hempstead Green where wartime installations can be found and there was a nineteenth century postmill at the south-western corner. In the 1960s speedway, as **Mike Attew** and **Charles Skinner** will vouch, was very popular and there was a cinder track here.



I am indebted to Jonathan Neville for some of this information and since he moved from Itteringham (which supported another speedway team) he has compiled an excellent website [www.hempstead-village.co.uk](http://www.hempstead-village.co.uk) to add to his [www.norfolkmills.co.uk](http://www.norfolkmills.co.uk) one.

Beyond the flooded marlpit known as The Rookery where there is an annual toad patrol and Bertie Harmer's Green Farm are **Ray Picken's** poultry houses. This has echoes of the Aldborough pig application with Ray's son Paul trying to replace poultry with people by getting permission for 5 houses on the site. The farm is upwind from the village as well as next to the church and a site for a new village hall is included in order to persuade the planners. Both the Aldborough and Heydon / Oulton applications remain undetermined although this is nothing new. Still in Hempstead parish, though closer to Baconsthorpe, the old Hare and Hounds pub has been on the market this summer. NNDC didn't want to lose it but, after it closed in 2010, the owners eventually got permission on appeal to convert it into a dwelling. There was hope that a consortium could do what happened at The Walpole Arms in Itteringham and spring some £700,000 or so to buy it. Regrettably the property has now been removed from the market so that now looks unlikely. This is next to **Richard Youngs's** Pitt Farm where the Tudor farmhouse is Listed more for its connection with Anne Boleyn than Pitt the Even Elder. His daughter Emma, the quizmistress, runs the impressive Baconsthorpe Meadows south of here complete with pods. Sadly David, Richard's brother at nearby Pine Farm, died earlier this year.



In connection with the Jubilee Table on display at Ely Cathedral until next March I am informed by **Martin Jensen's** wife Rosemary that the venerable bog oak was also used for making something at the other end of the scale. Ingeniously a violin has been made which should have an interesting *timbre*. The Quercus Players, a quarter comprising violin, guitar, flute and piano, are playing a concert at Guestwick Church on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September between 7.30 and 9.30. Tickets are available for £10 from Philip Taylor who made the violin at [thebogoakviolin@gmail.com](mailto:thebogoakviolin@gmail.com) or Nigel on 07443 644301; refreshments are available. Meanwhile Martin has kindly penned an update on his Ukraine situation and it is good to hear that exports are starting – I only hope the drought that is affecting barges on the Rhine doesn't do the same along the Danube.

*Tim*  
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