

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Richard Brooks

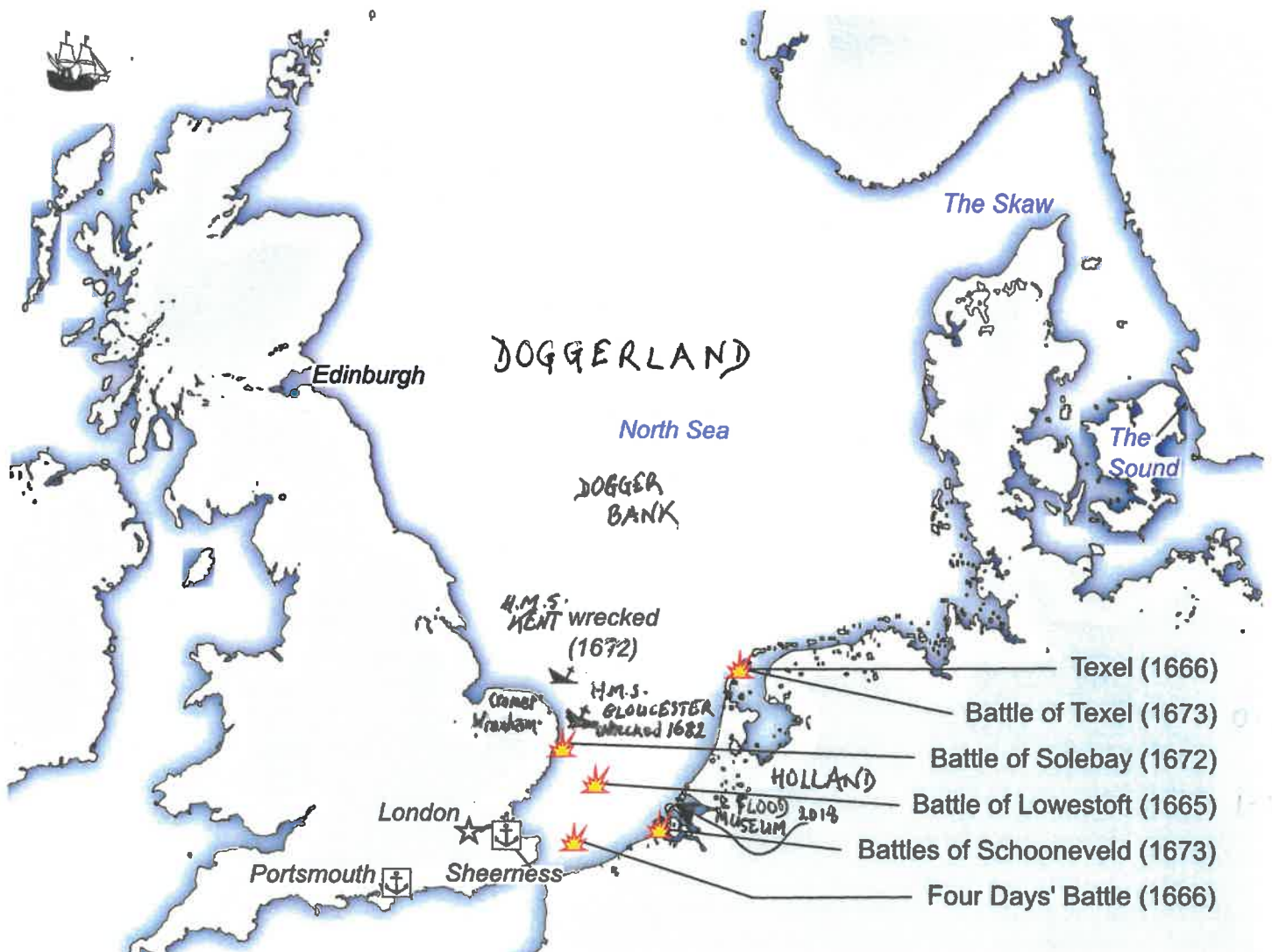
Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

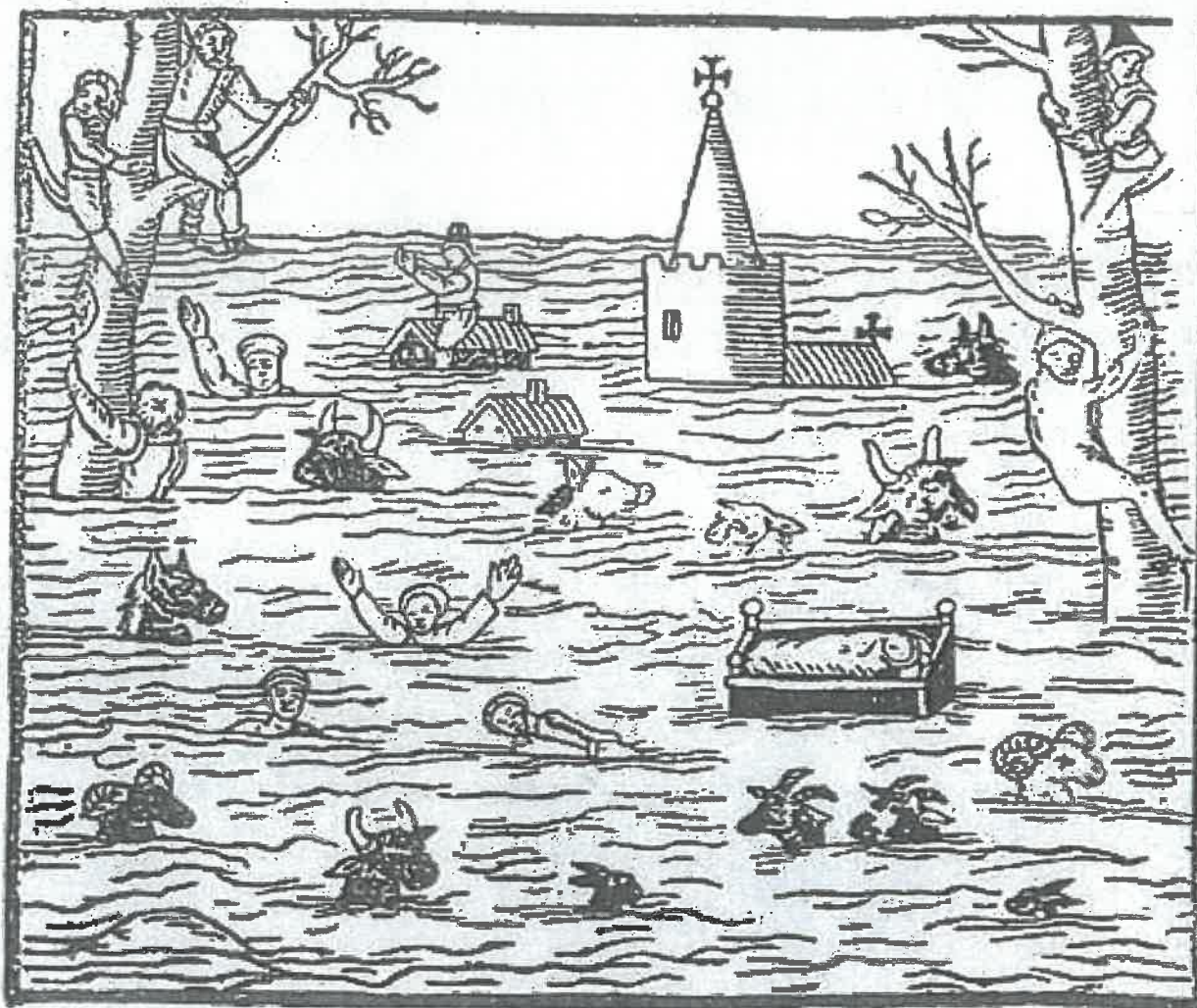
www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS February 2023

Last week there was the 70th anniversary of the East Coast floods when Norfolk lost one hundred lives, almost one third of the English total. Most of these losses were between King's Lynn and Hunstanton although individuals were drowned at Salthouse, Cley and Wiveton. However this paled by comparison with Holland when the North Sea surge reached there the following day, 1st February. We witnessed the evidence of that on our trip there in 2018 with the losses having been six times greater. The savagery of the sea has been experienced down the centuries and the Restoration period was the riskiest ever for travelling around our shores. In 1671 it was reckoned that 76 ships were wrecked off East Anglia and, worse, in 1672 at least 200 ships and a thousand men were lost along the north Norfolk coast and around to The Wash. As I related last year the Battle of Sole Bay in 1672 saw substantial losses on both English and Dutch sides while HMS Kent was wrecked off Cromer that same year. Then in 1682 there came the recently revealed wreck of HMS Gloucester on Scroby Sands 28 miles Great Yarmouth. This is leading up to the fact that, following an excellent presentation by the Barmwell brothers at Stalham's last meeting, Michael Pollitt has alerted me to an upcoming exhibition at Norwich Castle Museum. *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester : Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck* starts later this month and runs through to September. Michael feels it might be worthwhile making a block booking, perhaps involving both Holt and Stalham members, and Sunday afternoon on March 26th is a possible date.



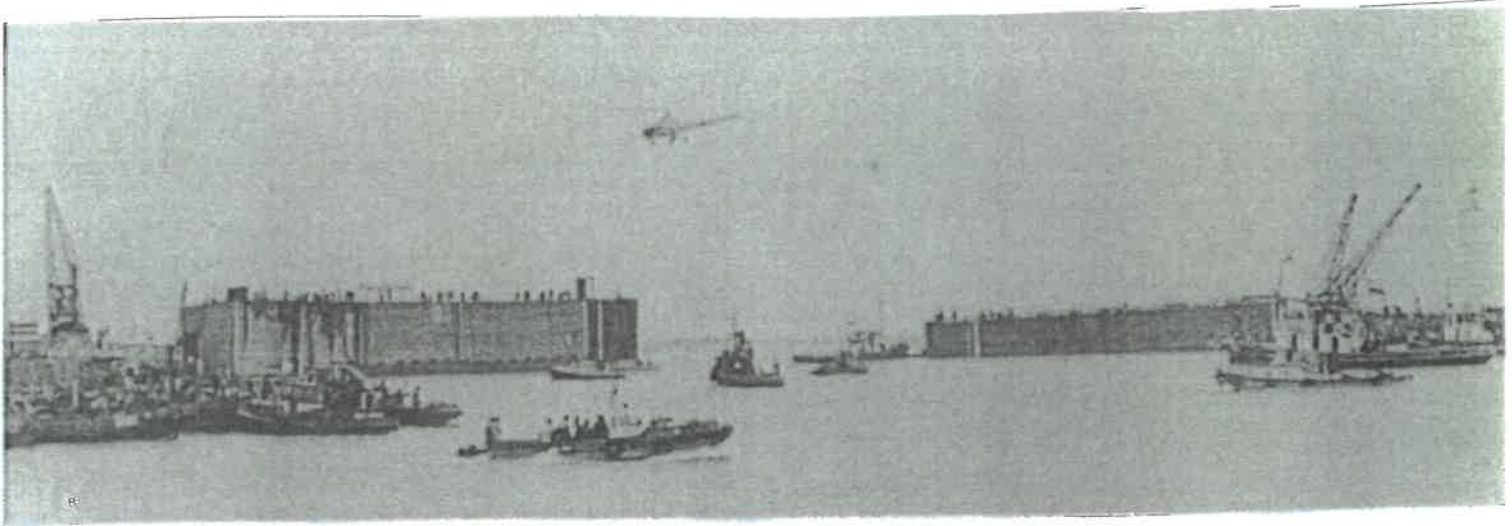
Woodcut of Seventeenth Century Flood in East Anglia



Extent of the flooding in the Netherlands

It has been claimed that Scroby Sands were once an island until washed away in a storm. Certainly the sandbanks off our coast are constantly shifting and terns are known to have nested on re-formed dry land there in the past. The 1953 storm caused the sands to shift again dramatically so that wrecks such as the Gloucester and a Belgian trawler called the Yarmouth that sank in 1950 can be exposed and recovered over time. Modern technology and the rapid growth of wind farms has meant that the seabed is better surveyed than ever before. Signs of prehistoric habitation have been dredged up including on and around Dogger Bank submerged north-east of the turbines that supply electricity via Weybourne. Consequently the whole area is now known as Doggerland with the name deriving from that of a Dutch fishing vessel and it has nothing to do with a layby near Wroxham.

Fourth and last caisson from Portsmouth being deposited at Ouwerkerk



At 7.30 on Tuesday, 21st February we have Darren Gill to tell us about gun dogs and his career training them. In addition Martin Jensen has agreed to give us a further update on his Ukrainian involvement. After speaking to Tony Williams about the £3000 that, with the generosity of so many of you, has been pledged Martin has outlined his proposal as follows:-

In the summer I met with a family in particularly sad and tragic circumstances: The father was killed in Donetsk. He left two orphaned children Dmytro 16 and Jana aged 12. Since then this autumn his widow has given birth to a baby girl Elizabeth who will never see her father.

Bogdan Olijnyk was unwavering in his decision to volunteer and go and defend his country on the 25th of February. He was amongst the bravest soldiers fighting as part of a reconnaissance team working behind enemy lines when his company was ambushed. The widow and the children are now living with her elderly in-laws and with the breadwinner gone she is struggling to make ends meet.

I feel this family are particularly deserving and we would like to direct the full amount donated to this one family. In Ukraine with a much lower cost of living this donation will be a tremendous help in supporting this family at a time of their greatest need. Whilst nothing will bring their father back, members will know that the club's generosity will be crucial in allowing the teenage children to continue to learn and study. Dmytro, like his father, wants to be an engineer and this donation will help him to achieve his goal.

He has suggested payment in three tranches and the details will be discussed with his fellow committee members. It is commendable what Martin, his family and staff are doing and it will be good to know where the money is going and what good it is doing. Unfortunately Andrew Ross will be away on the 21st as he will be at Beet Tech 23 in his role on the NFU Sugar Beet Board. We look forward to having him back and send best wishes to his uncle Colin.

Tim

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