

# 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 May 2023

In this new Carolean age might we see a revival in the fortunes of organic farming? Our unique Dutch member continues to plough his lonely furrow and attached are details of his *Open Day at Ash Farm, Bintree on 27<sup>th</sup> May*. **Coen van Beuningen** now has his daughter Mary – featured here between him and **Kit Papworth** – helping him and I trust he will be wearing his traditional smock and clogs - two things Holland bequeathed us along with Elm Disease – on that Saturday. It was a bit rich that Coen was among those farmers blamed for polluting the Wensum which led to the stay on development that was hoped would be lifted this Spring. He must be hoping that the authorities don't go to the lengths that his native Dutch government are in curtailing farming operations: Anglian Water are currently being investigated over possible illegal releases of sewage into the Wensum and the building of a new town between Bintree and North Elmham appears to pose a greater threat than conscientious farmers.



Talking of smocks, a smock mill stood in Victorian times a short distance north of Guist towards Holt on the east side of the B1110. This was at the northern end of Wood Norton parish close to Hindolveston and, as part of the Hastings Estate, it was initially let to a miller called Miller from Foulsham. Nothing remains of it today other than the name Windmill Farm. At that time Lord Hastings at Melton Constable Hall had been keen to improve communications between the farming community and the outside world and had his own waiting room and platform at the new station in Burgh Parva parish. At one stage the line from Fakenham was planned to run further south close to Wood Norton before finally being built surprisingly close to the Restoration, Christopher Wren style, country house and the park designed by Capability Brown.

His Lordship's descendant Delaval, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Baron and 13<sup>th</sup> Baronet Astley, has had cause to call on his acting talents from when he played cad Cameron Fraser in *The Archers*. He was chosen to carry one of the golden spurs, part of the royal regalia and Crown Jewels as emblems of knighthood and chivalry, at The Coronation. This is a tradition that dates almost as far back as the Battle of Hastings and Delaval's grandfather fulfilled the same role for our late Queen in 1953. In fact since time immemorial, in legal terms 1189, the new monarch has been given these golden spurs even through the Roundheads' Commonwealth when Old Warty Face Cromwell had them melted down. Lord Hastings has a modest home in Barney since his father let Thornage Hall with 70 acres to the Camphill Community where his brother Justin enjoys supported living with a score or more other residents. As one of the Trustees **Michael Pollitt** asked whether our club might sponsor £350 towards two new beehives and our committee has readily agreed to this.



Cameron Fraser



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Baron

Delaval's grandfather was a Tory politician and many of their ancestors were Norfolk MPs. **Mark Cook**'s efforts to win these Astley areas back from the Liberal Democrats proved unsuccessful as did those of **Charlie Mack** in the Gresham ward. However that irrepressible campaigner **Ken Leggett** was re-elected in Old Catton.

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