

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Richard Brooks

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS Midsummer 2023

Our main man **Martin Jensen** has provided the attached update on his good works in Ukraine further to the opening of the refugee centre in the local town of Vuzlove. To confirm, his farm – marked in red on the small scale map - straddles the H17 highway about 40 miles north-east of Lviv *en route* for Lutsk. This is at the opposite end of the country from Kherson where the busted dam has, according to the Today programme, flooded an area the size of Norfolk. Also attached is some information on Martin's own farming operation and there has been a wet Spring which is OK on his free draining land where he has been able to use chicken muck in previous years. This supply may be disrupted by the war and the general dislocation will take years to remedy; Martin doubts that peace will come this year but is hopeful that it may be achieved next.



As the cable layers continue to scythe through WJF Ross (cousins Andrew and Stuart) land they will soon come to CJC Lee (Spin Seaman and daughter Pixie)'s wormery and composting centre at Shrubbs Farm between Edgefield and Saxthorpe. They must then divert south-westwards to avoid Corpusty by crossing both the B1149 (Holt / Norwich) and B1354 (Thursford (historically Walsingham) / Aylsham) roads. There is medieval archaeology in this vicinity where the bulldozers may unearth evidence for Lound Hall which was probably a defended manor house that stood between Spin's Great Farmstead and the Full(ing) Mill half a mile upstream on the Locks Farm Road that fords the Bure. Fred Jarvis farmed at Prospect Point on the Briston Road and told the EDP in the 1970s that he had found vestiges of a flint wall 30 feet long and at a depth of 3 feet. The building has also been referred to as Laund Hall, Mekil Hall, Creplings and Saxthorpe Castle. The last of these names was perpetuated by The Castle pub in the village which closed in 1975. Not long afterwards an adjacent end terrace property suddenly collapsed into a sinkhole in Great Yard. At the time Anglian Water were alleged to have been extracting water nearby and were accused of having lowered the water table thus causing the disintegration. However, although this was a likely explanation, the family were not able to prove that a legal tort had been committed and the cottage was never rebuilt. Let's hope the cable laying is not as destructive.

Talking of damage **Brian Last**, then known as Jack and literally the last miller at Corpusty Mill, told me that the milestone nearby had been almost decapitated by a verge cutter. It has now been restored by the excellent team which has been retrieving milestones all around the county. It was not until the 1912 flood swept through here that the need for a bridge to replace the forded crossing was recognised. Until then a horse was kept handy to pull out stranded mechanical vehicles since the ford was so deep and traffic negotiating the 6 miles from Holt, followed by the further 15 to Norwich, had often preferred the shallower ford at Little London. On the reverse journey from Norwich a chap called Bob played a trick on Clement Cozens Hardy of Cley Hall by overtaking him opposite Corpusty Church at the top of the hill into Corpusty, nipping along the south side of the village to Little London, and surprising Clement who saw the end of the Cozens Hardy family's brewing empire in the 1890s, by overtaking him for a second time via Great Farm and Croft Lane just short of the next milestone north of Saxthorpe towards Holt. It was not until 2002 when the Link Road provided the current Eastern Bypass.



Please don't forget to register with **Laurie Hill** for the *Wine Tasting and Meal at the Burn Valley Vineyard at North Creake on Tuesday, 4th July* as I advertised previously. Apparently sheep's wool is involved in some way. Your crops are looking well so **John Cragg** and **Bill Poortvliet** will be expecting strong competition when they collect your Malting Barley samples next month. John is on 01263 734652 and at j.cragg540@btinternet.com for you to make sure that you do not miss out. Incidentally **Bob King** has just retired after 35 years at Great Ryburgh, latterly as Commercial Director of Crisp Malt. For much of that time he has also been a great friend and member of our club when judging our Malting Barley samples and giving us his annual summary of the grain trade with perspicacity, openness and good humour. We wish him a very happy retirement and trust we shall not lose contact as Bob has bequeathed Rebecca Gee upon us as Crisp Malt's Grain Procurement Manager who is ready to take on his mantle as our judge.

Tim

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