

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Richard Brooks

Chairman: Martin Jensen

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

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

## CLUB MATTERS March 2024

We are fortunate, after a dozen years, to have our homegrown pondhopper, **Carl Sayer** returning to update us on the **Norfolk Ponds Project: Restoring the Ghastly and the Ghostly** on Tuesday, 12th March for our final meeting of the winter season. The professor for ponds has involved several of our members in his pioneering conservation work and he is featured below with the late Richard Waddingham who was his great ally at Manor Farm, Briston. The ghostly part of his talk hints at Carl's interest in local legends like Black Shuck, the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* after staying at Cromer.

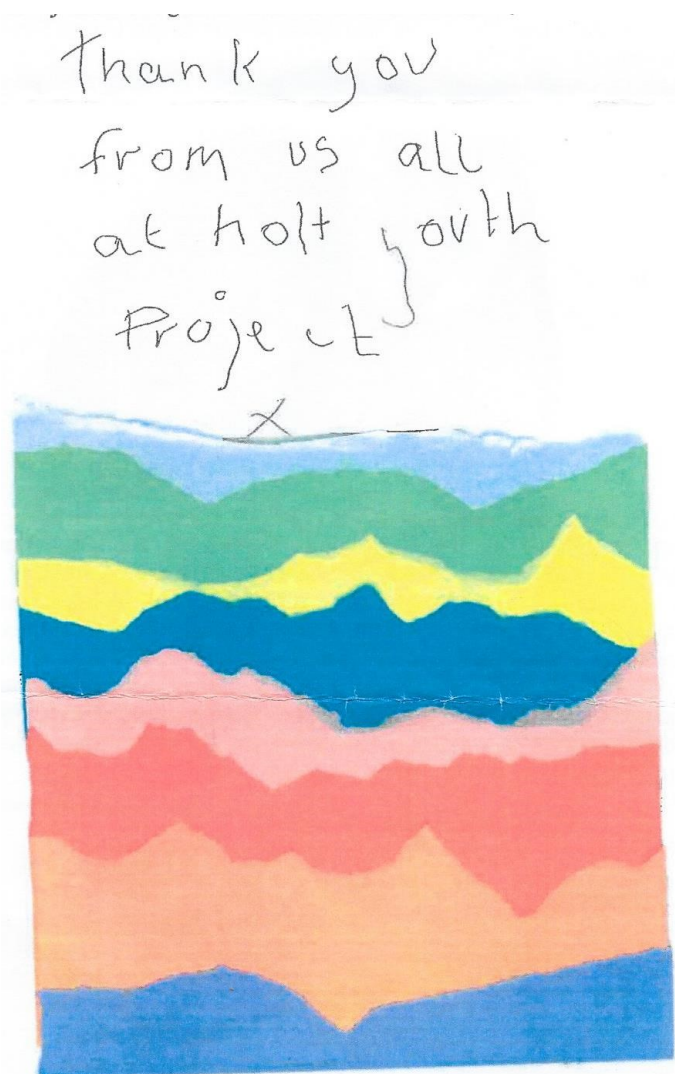


Horses rather than dogs were on the agenda at our February meeting courtesy of James Beales who has successfully established the new Agriculture Department and Equestrian Program at Gresham's. As with Carl's pond schemes several members have been accommodating the sixth formers for whom practical experience is a big part of their BTEC National Diploma course which is the equivalent of two 'A levels'. Mr Beales made his interesting presentation in a confident and impressive manner while acknowledging the sobering point made by **Michael Pollitt** that, although laudable, his course should integrate with other agricultural education in Norfolk as he has seen too many initiatives attract initial interest that is not then sustained. Afterwards **Chairman Martin** was pleased to finally make the club's donation of £350 to Michael (pictured) for the two beehives for the Camp Hill Community now that Barclays have sorted out our mandate.



Michael has in turn suggested that we might like to make a walking tour of Thornage Hall's 70 acre biodynamic farm where they have a herd of Red Polls. This would be an evening event during May or June followed by a pub meal and 20 might be a suitable number. Meanwhile **President Richard** and **John Cragg** have penciled in a day trip to Frederick Hiam's Brandon Field Estate in Breckland where there has been huge investment in solar panels and vegetable packing facilities. This could possibly be held on 19th or 20th June and there is a committee meeting next week to firm up on our plans. It will be a busy time with our **Anniversary Dinner on 11th April** and our **Trip to Sweden**, confirmed now that they are in NATO, **from 28th to 31st May**. Bookings are still welcome to our 'Holt Farmers' Barclays Account 10554197, Sort Code 20-03-06. In the midst of all this the First of June will be doubly glorious this year with the weddings of both our **Treasurer Laurie** and **Sam Clabon** on that same Saturday. The latter is marrying Leah, the youngest daughter of **Peter Perry-Warnes** who, having recently turned to shepherding, will have warmed up for his Father of the Bride speech with his one on behalf of the club at our Dinner in April. We wish them all well. Finally we received this note from the Holt Youth Project for the grand donation we made in January.

Tim



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