

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Peter Perry-Warnes

Chairman: Martin Jensen

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

May 2026

I am pleased to confirm a trifecta of events are coming up for you. I understand this word is not a dessert but originates from horse betting and means three good things that come good together. In just a fortnight's time we have our *Trip to Yorkshire from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday, 4th June*. With up to 30 on board we shall depart from the usual pick up points:-

06:30 **Youngs'** Potato store on B1145 east of Woodrow Roundabout almost opposite old Cawston College, NR10 4HR

06:55 Oak Farm (**Stuart Ross**), off B1110 Thornage (Dereham) Road, on left half a mile south-west of Holt, NR25 6SY

07:20 Tattersett Manor Farm (**Alastair Wagg**), off A148 between the Sculthorpe Straight and East Rudham, PE31 8RS



Muker Meadows, Swaledale

President Peter has a full itinerary lined up and it will be good to get our popular trips back on the road when our destination could not be bettered. Anyone who has yet to pay the £250 deposit should credit Holt & District Farmers' Club Sort Code 20-03-26 A/c No. 10554197 promptly please while using the prefix **Y** followed by your initials as a reference. Also please let me know which pick-up point you are using.

As I trailed last month, next up is **Tour and Dinner at Raynham on Monday, 22nd June** with **William Youngs** following the successful formula for last year's event at Bayfield. The schedule is:

16:45 Arrive at The Copse, Swaffham Road, Raynham, Fakenham, NR21 7EA

17:00 Depart for Tour of the Estate - two bespoke trailers are being laid on

19:00 Return to The Copse for Canapes on the Lawn overlooking Raynham Park

19:45 (circa.) Sit down for Dinner which comprises: BBQ Steak followed by Strawberries & Cream

(could anyone with special dietary or access requirements please let me know in advance ?)

The cost is £75 per head inclusive of drinks and I have already received a good number of bookings. Please confirm your place by paying into the Club's same Barclays A/c No. 10554197 Sort Code 20-03-26 with **R** followed by your initials as reference and confirming with me at the same time please.



An exciting season at Raynham

This spring marks a vibrant chapter for Raynham Estate, with glamping escapes, gourmet dining and a brand-new brewery at Hall Farm Barns

Guided by CEO Lord Tom Townshend, whose family has cared for this landscape since the 12th century, Raynham Estate is steadily evolving into one of Norfolk's most inspiring rural destinations.

At the heart of its latest developments is Stump Rat Brewing Co., now fully up and running at Hall Farm Barns and bringing a sustainable farming partnership that enriches both the land and the livestock that graze it. Raynham's cattle now enjoy nutrient rich spent grain from the brewing process, creating a natural loop that supports quality beer production while reducing waste. It's a model that strengthens the estate's long-standing commitment to responsible land management.

"Our ethos has always been rooted in stewarding the estate for the future," Tom explains. "Working with local artisans like Stump Rat Brewing Co. fits perfectly with that mission. The brewery's arrival,

and the way its by-products feed back into the farm, is a wonderful example of sustainable, circular thinking."

Hall Farm is also home to the North Barn, a flexible retail or office space ideal for businesses looking to grow within a supportive, well-connected rural setting.

While craftsmanship and sustainability shape life at the estate's core, Raynham continues to offer restorative escapes for visitors. Wild Meadow Glamping, set within five acres of historic parkland, invites guests to slow down beneath Norfolk's open skies. "To add an extra touch of indulgence, we've introduced two new wood-fired hot tubs, alongside our dog-friendly and en-suite yurts," Tom shares.

A short stroll through ancient woodland leads to the estate's pop-up restaurant, The Copse, where provenance, simplicity and a deep connection to the land guide every dish. Whether reserving a table for Sunday lunch or joining the Raynham Secret Supper Club on select dates,

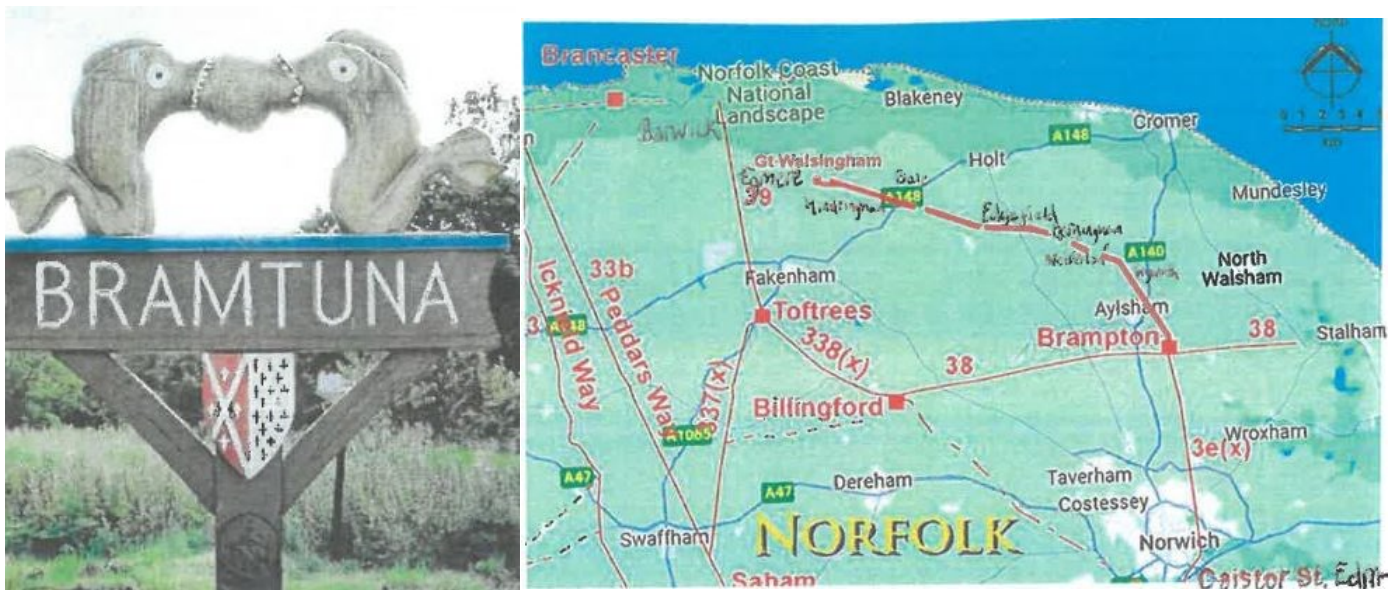
every gathering is a unique, intimate experience that is carefully curated to perfection.

From inspiring sustainable ventures and seasonal events to glorious glamping retreats, Raynham's blend of innovation, tradition and natural beauty makes it a destination worth discovering.

Visit raynham.co.uk for more information.



To round off our summer season we are grateful to **Shane Barnes**, our new committee member along with our youngest **Bruce Poortvliet**, for resurrecting the ancient custom of a **Clay Pigeon Shooting Match between Holt and Stalham Farmers' Clubs on Friday, 3rd July**. The arrival time is 16:30 for a **17:00 start at Bayfield Estate, near Holt, NR25 7JN** (<https://what3words.com/flirts.heartened.vine>) 40 to 50 clays over 4 or 5 stands are anticipated but dependent on numbers. The cost is **£35 per gun** and Shane has arranged with The King's Head at Letheringsett that a Burger (beef or chicken) & Chips meal is available for £15. If he has not already been in touch with you please contact him at barnes.business@outlook.com or on 07733 780913. He and Bruce will arrange the guns and again payments are due to Holt & DFC Sort Code 20-03-26 A/c No. 10554197 using **B** followed by your initials as reference. There should be silverware to be won and prizes for the Combined Top X scores from each club. Anyone who wants to shoot but not eat or vice versa will be equally welcome.



In the last couple of years some fascinating local history has been unearthed. My awful old school song in Hertfordshire has the lines "The Romans were a knowing race; They made a road down to this place". This refers to the Romans moving north from Londinium through the Home Counties to conquer the Iceni with the uppity Boadicea and her daughters. Another road came through Camulodunum (Colchester) and continued almost due north along what was known as Pye Road and we know as the A140. It passed Mendlesham where the berserk jerk Major Joe Garrett flew from on his tragic thousand mile journey to Holt in 1944 and on through Scole and Long Stratton to Venta Icenorum (Caistor St. Edmund) south of where Norwich now is. In fact our Treasurer Emeritus **Tony Williams** has retired to Newton Flotman on Pye (now known as Ipswich) Road. I'm sure Tony has views on the controversial East Pye Solar Project which is currently being considered on 2,718 acres of farmland around Hempnall. Having crossed the Wensum down- stream from Norwich the legionnaires headed on north in the direction of Cromer until the latitudinal (west - east) route fed in from Billingford. We have met this latter route crossing just to the south of Cawston where it runs more or less parallel to that section of Marriott's Way and it has lately been discovered that it was heading to Stalham and then a haven at Hickling. There was a large pottery at Brampton which the Romans called Bramtuna on account of the fish (not really - the name comes from broom as with many other local settlements - broom/furze/gorse used to be as common in Norfolk as it appears now to be in New Zealand). **William Youngs** lives at The Old Rectory which is at the top (northern) end of the village across the river Bure from Burgh-next-Aylsham while most of the Roman settlement covering 80 acres or more lay at the southern end towards Oxnead Bridge. There was water transport down the course of the Bure which gradually became impassable until the Aylsham Navigation was established about 250 years ago and was then swept away by the 1912 flood.



In 2024 a chap called Geoff Lunn made a couple of finds indicating that the direction of the Roman routes north of Brampton and last year a computer programmer called David Staveley produced evidence that perhaps the main one of these ran from Brampton Old Hall to Great Walsingham. The former was the home of the lawyer J. H. Holley that was rented by Julie Christie in 1970 when filming *The Go Between* at Melton Constable Hall, rumour has it with Warren Beatty in attendance; it was demolished in 1981. Again, probably to avoid the boggy riverside land, the Romans skirted round Aylsham to Ingworth before heading westwards and through, Staveley claims, the very site where Wolterton Hall was built by Horatio Walpole in 1742. A third chap called David Ratledge has made a video using a LiDAR 3D scan of the countryside where the route occasionally follows modern tarmacked roads such as the one between Barningham Green and Edgefield as well as between Bale and Hindringham. Several members may be surprised that the findings cross their land and there has been some controversy in the archaeological world with David Staveley ending his research because others were claiming credit for what he had discovered. This is a difficult field (excuse the pun) with the landscape having been altered by the likes of Humphry Repton at Barningham Park and ploughed out by farmers over nearly two thousand years. Many features are difficult to research and interpret so that further investigation is needed to prove the validity of a Roman Road here. Some of it is guesswork as with the route beyond Walsingham where the Deserted Medieval Village of Egmer would have been en route for Barwick Hall near Stanhoe which is Melton Harrold country. Were the Romans heading for their fort at Branodunum (Brancaster) ?; one can soon get carried away into pseudo-science as with ley lines and the like but I think Mr Staveley may be on the right track.



BURGY OLD HALL



JULIE CHRISTIE

Meanwhile I can offer an update on my hobby horse of local panning farragoes. Not content with appealing against the enforcement action being taken against the 'bungalows' or arks for their pigs the Filbys at Aldborough have also appealed against the refusal they received on their whole operation which takes the matter into its seventh year. Likewise with his glamping site between Edgefield and Holt serial appellant Nigel Marsh is seeing whether he can see off North Norfolk District Council in the same way that he has dealt with West Norfolk. He will also be up before the beak in September over the birdscarer ballyhoo from 2024. Finally **Stuart Ross** and his aides will be after your samples in a couple of months' time and I hope the recent rain has been sufficient and in time to result in good yields and quality.

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