

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Peter Perry-Warnes

Chairman: Martin Jensen

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

While **Peter Perry-Warnes** is only the sixth President in our Club's 78 year history we had six Chairmen by **Mike Attew's** time in the early 2000s. In the two decades since **Stuart Ross** became Chairman in 2007 there have been another six each serving for three years apart from **Pat Cubitt** who did an extra year on account of covid. Earlier this summer **Martin Jensen** informed the Committee that he will be following this triennial convention by "stepping aside" at our **Annual General Meeting at 7.30 on Tuesday, 13th October at The Feathers in Holt**. This came as something of a surprise to me and, I believe, the whole Committee, but Martin's mind is made up as he wishes "to give our longstanding vice chairman finally the opportunity to try the hot seat". Indeed **Andrew Ross** has been our deputy for seven years although he was reluctant to step up for the top job while he was still on the NFU Sugar Beet Board. Andrew, or Tommy as he is known to most of his contemporaries, is eminently well qualified for the post following on from the brotherhood of his father John and uncles Ian and Colin along with his cousin Stuart. He has graciously accepted the role and **Mark Cook** was also unanimously endorsed to become our Vice Chairman after his sterling service over a decade on the committee. There is a committee meeting in three weeks' time at which arrangements for effecting these changeovers and election of committee members will be addressed in anticipation of the A.G.M. One new member will definitely be required since **Bill Poortvliet** had decided last year that he will be standing down. There will be things to be said about him, about Andrew whose hold on the Malting Barley silverware is under challenge and about Martin who has overseen our 75th Anniversary Dinner, our Trip to Sweden and our return to The Feathers along with so much more.



MARK COOK



ANDREW ROSS



BILL PORORTVLIET

Those of you who forwent a Bank Holiday lie-in could have heard a local item on the Farming Today programme featuring our regular host at Bayfield **Roger Combe**. Although he no longer farms on his own account Roger is busy continuing his diversification by applying for a golf practice facility at Glandford behind the bistro, galleries and studios as well as Cley Spy at Manor Barns. He is involved with the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) which operates out of one of his barns at Bayfield Brecks and he is also now a beneficiary of this scheme. Anna Hill interviewed Roger about his project to encourage wild bees i.e. not ones

kept for their honey but for pollinating fruits and vegetables as well as many forage crops like lucerne. It was a scare story, sometimes attributed to Albert Einstein, that the human race could starve within four years if bees no longer existed. Staple grains including rice rely on the wind but it is reckoned that bees pollinate roughly one third of the human diet. Other schemes supported by FiPL include a young shepherdess's flying flock, a river-bank restoration scheme along the River Mun involving one of the Gurneys around Northrepps and a Peddars Way scheme involving the Sandringham and Houghton Hall estates. If you farm and/or manage land in the Norfolk Coast National Landscape (formerly the coastal AONB) then you are invited to East Ruston Village Hall (NR12 9JD) on the afternoon of Tuesday, 8th September. You are merely asked to book in advance through eventbrite.co.uk; tea & cake are being provided.

On Sunday 13th September the Ryburgh Tractor Run in aid of Great Ryburgh Village Hall sets off at 10 o'clock and our Treasurer's colleague Sharon.Moore@larking-gowen.co.uk appears to be the contact. Incidentally this is in the Upper Wensum Valley where there is considerable controversy over the state of the river with bad news surfacing over the summer and before. This may extend up the Foulsham tributary which enters the Wensum near Guist where the Tollbridge Restaurant used to operate. More of this anon.

Tim



Hon. Secretary: T. P. S. Nicholson 6 Great Yard The Street, Saxthorpe Norwich NR117AH 07464 991741
tim_nicholson@ymail.com

Hon. Treasurer: L. A. J. P. Hill Summerhill House 1 Sculthorpe Road Fakenham NR21 9HA 07811 034215
laurie.hill@larking-gowen.co.uk