Chairman’s Comment

The days go by at a rapid pace (when you get to my age anyway!) and COSA continues to be an active organisation meeting several times a year as you will see in this newsletter. However, one of the drawbacks of our organisation is that, with no new members joining, our average member age is increasing and sadly we hear of members who are no longer with us each year. So it was really heartening to see several younger family members attending the farm walk in June and we always have a good crowd of those who are ‘less mature’ enjoying the dinner dance too. As always we encourage you to bring your family and friends along for these highlights of the COSA year.

You will see further on that that the farm walk has become very well attended during the past few years. Consequently, it seems to me that it’s far more fun drinking and socialising than participating in the AGM. So this necessary and important meeting will be moved to an open committee meeting in January, and again we encourage you all to attend and have your say (and a pint too perhaps?).

This year you will also read that sadly several members have passed away and whilst we have mentioned a few in our newsletter, it is not easy to be aware of and mention all who have left us so please forgive us on that front and do remember to send any news you may have of former Chadacre students to admin@cosa.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Dinner Dance in November, the AGM in January and the Farm Walk in June, and then that will be another COSA year passed by!

Robert ‘Judge’ Bendall
COSA Chairman
COSA were delighted that former Chadacre Principal Edward Hewitt and his wife were able to come along to the 2016 Farm Walk. Below is the Principal’s report...

On the 10th of June approximately 85 COSA members descended on the Duchesne family farm near Stanningfield about 4 miles north of Chadacre. Both Richard and Will were students in the 80s so this was a chance to see the progress they have made in 30 years.

Will farms 630 acres in partnership with father, Mark concentrating on combinable crops suitable for the heavier land, winter wheat and barley, oil seed rape and occasionally beans. Machinery is synchronised to allow a one man operation. Their livestock enterprise, contract pig finishing, keeps them busy all the year round. Weaners are delivered at 7kg in batches of 2000, grown on to 30kg when 1600 are moved into the finishing houses and 400 taken elsewhere. They are marketed at 100kg after about 6 months and there are about 3600 pigs on site at any time. The new impressive finishing barn houses 1000 pigs at a capital cost of £200 per pig place.

Sufficient straw is baled on site for use in the piggery and the solid muck and washing water is spread on the land by contractors. The muck is valued at 100kgN /ha and the “water” at 40 kgN /ha.

Richard is farming a similar collective acreage close by in partnership with his wife and with help from his family. He is concentrating on combinable crops and also undertaking contract work and growing Christmas trees as a side line. We were able to tour parts of both farms in convenient trailers provided by local agricultural firms. Will and Richard gave a commentary at strategic places en route and answered questions as they arose. We returned to the farm for refreshment and hospitality provided by the whole family. This provided an opportunity to refresh friendships and to check who had lost the most hair before thanking the Duchesnes for an excellent evening.
Chadacre Old Students Association

The 2017 COSA Farm Walk
By kind permission of Stuart Pulford (student 72-74)
Friday June 9th 2017 at 6.30 pm
Tendring Hall Farm, Stoke by Nayland, Colchester, CO6 4SG

We will meet at Tendring Hall Farm, Stoke by Nayland, CO6 4SG and then go onto New Bridge Mill, West Bergholt, CO3 9TB.
Across the two farms members will see Stuart’s herd of commercial sucklers, pedigree Simmental sucklers, 300 finishing cattle that are indoors on home grown feed together with 500 acres of arable and 700 acres HLS grassland.
The evening will finish with refreshments. A charge of £5 per person attending payable on the night to help cover ongoing COSA administration costs.

Moving the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Recently it has been fantastic to see so many members and their families attending the annual farm walk and catching up on old times, seeing faces not seen for months or years. After all, that’s what COSA is about.

However, the down side of this is that it has become jolly difficult to run an AGM after such a social occasion. We reluctantly try to prize folks away from their conversations and we try to deliver the meeting over the noise of all the reminiscing. So the committee took the decision at their meeting in July to move the AGM to the winter committee meeting that is usually held around Jan/Feb time. Therefore the 2017 AGM will be held at the Manger Pub at Bradfield Combust on Tuesday 30th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm (on the A134 Sudbury to Bury St Edmunds road). This meeting will be an open meeting for all members to attend and have their say. Reports from the Chair and treasurer, adoption of accounts and Chadacre Trust report will be on the AGM agenda as normal.

We will let members know via any means we can, by email, word of mouth and press if possible.

The pub does a good pint of beer and we generally have some bowls of chips too so why not make it a social occasion to do more of that catching up with COSA members – after the AGM of course!

If you want anything to be brought up at the meeting and you cannot make it contact Sally or Robert on admin@cosa.org.uk or at Hollow Trees Farm, Semer, Ipswich IP7 6HX, 01449 741 247.

Winter Reunion Dinner Dance 2015
Stoke by Nayland Hotel
Friday 18th November 2016

COSA invites members, family and friends to the Winter Reunion Dinner Dance 2016

For just £45 per person you will get good food, good music and good company.
Tickets are available on a first come first served basis so fill in the enclosed booking sheet and get the date in your diary. Further copies of the booking sheet can be downloaded from the COSA website and deadline for ticket sales is Sunday 13th November 2016.

Ticket payment options:
By Cheque - post to Mr & Mrs Mumford
By Card - phone 01449 741 247 (Hollow Trees Farm office) to pay by all cards

Hotel Rooms
Once again Stoke by Nayland Hotel have offered a great deal on rooms for COSA members. Be sure to ask for the COSA rate when you are booking.

Dancing to 23X (aka Suffolk Wedding Band)

Anniversary Years
40th - 1976-78 50th - 1966-68 60th - 1956-58
Life after Chadacre... ...Yabbies and more

John Branton was a student 1981-83 and Robert Black Bursar during 1985-86. Where is he now? Read on to find out...

Looking back I guess where our life’s direction takes us isn’t always as planned, however I do consider myself lucky. After leaving Chadacre I headed to Australia, firstly in 1984 with an International Agricultural Exchange Programme, and finally migrating in 1987. My initial attraction to Australia was to the big open spaces of Western Australia working with large machinery on a wheat belt farm and I believed this is where I would make my mark in management or something similar.

While working on a property the son of the farmer approached me about an idea he had and was looking for help to get his project off the ground. His idea was to commercially trap or harvest from the farm dams across the Southwest of WA for freshwater crayfish more commonly known as yabbies, and market them to the restaurant trade.

To explain this in a little more detail; – in the Southwest of WA there is very little underground water so, for stock drinking water, farmers construct earth type dams which fill during the winter months and hold enough water to see them through the long hot summers we have. An average dam size would be 3 – 10,000m³ some a lot larger. Generally a farm will have a dam in every paddock if it runs cattle or sheep. These dams are the perfect environment to grow yabbies.

Over the next couple of years, combined with a group of enthusiastic farmers, we set about learning how to harvest (trap) and how to grow these yabbies. Those in the processing side of things had to learn how to transport and market the yabbies to restaurants around the world.

(yabbies are sold live). My role and eventual business involved the setting of hundreds of traps and capturing the yabbies on many properties, storing and transporting back to a processing facility where they were cleaned and graded before being sold to various parts of Australia and the world. This involved driving many thousands of kilometres every year.

Being young and enthusiastic we wanted things to develop quickly and I remember discussing with an Italian farmer client of mine who farmed a large acreage and had several farm dams. I stated to him ‘Rome wasn’t built in a day’ to which he replied ‘It would’ve if he had been #$*! foreman’

During 1990 Australia went into a recession, this meant times were going to be tough and not everyone was spending their money at expensive seafood restaurants. My associate who introduced me to the idea decided to leave the industry. I did not want to exit and see the years of hard work go to waste, luckily for me I met a small property owner who was wanting to set up markets in South East Asia and Europe, he spoke three European languages and he was wanting a regular supply so this got the harvesting business back up and running.

Over the next few years things steadily grew, but not without several challenges. In one case we could not get the yabbies to Europe as the Gulf War had made the airlines unable to guarantee flight times and therefore they would not take perishable cargo. By the mid-90s the industry was producing 300 tonnes of yabbies per annum of which my business was producing about 10-20% so a significant player. The WA State Government and Fisheries Dept. became involved as they saw the potential and allocated funds for research and development and it was great feeling to be working alongside fisheries scientists in trying to understand the crayfish a lot more.

One breakthrough we had was we were experiencing some mortalities in the yabbies several days after they had been harvested. It was causing great concern as the mortality could happen just as they arrived at a restaurant which would make our product unreliable and no one wants to purchase live and it ends up arriving dead. What was discovered was as yabbies leave the water during trapping they hold a few mls of water in their gill chambers to keep them functioning while out of water. If the bottom of the dam was stirred up during trapping high levels of bacteria were also released into the water if the yabbies then held this water in the gill chambers the bacteria would invade the yabbies organs, eventually killing it. We solved this problem by simply immersing the yabbies in clean water immediately after they were taken from the trap. Yabbies would open their gill chambers allowing clean fresh water to replace the water from the bottom of the dam. This ‘Gill Flushing’ or ‘Gill Washing’ process was successful and reduced all mortalities. In reality ‘Gill Flushing’ saved my business and possibly the industry too.

I continued my role in this business for several more years, but after consecutive dry years I made the decision to do something different.
In 2010 I had some minor hand surgery and I was looking for work with light duties, so I combined my passion for vintage motorcycles and photography to produce a Classic Motorcycles Photographic Calendar (the calendar is still being produced today). The calendar is sold online and at markets and events I attended. I enjoyed this project as it gave me a chance to express my artistic side and to produce a high quality product, but I knew I couldn’t make a living out of this so I was still looking for something else.

In Oct 2011 I commenced employment at a company based in Perth assembling agricultural machinery. I expected to only be with this company a few months but 5 years later I remain happily employed. A little more about the role - the company imports Canadian (Morris) Air seeders and American (Miller) self-propelled sprayers. Australia’s farming systems are somewhat similar to Northern American in that large areas of land are sown to cereal crops so it only makes sense to use similar machinery.

The machines are imported to Australia in sea containers where they are unloaded, painted and assembled to customer’s specifications and sent out to a dealer network across Australia before ending up on farms. The Morris Air Seeders of which there are three types, Concept a tyned spring or hydraulic seeder, Contour an independent opener seeder and Razr a disc seeder, the machines are able to be built with various row spacings 7½ inch up to 15 inch (no metric measurements when dealing with the North Americans) and a sowing width on the Contour Drill from 25ft – 90ft. Yes they get quite big and will only get bigger. For those of you who may be interested a 90ft Morris Contour drill travelling at 9 kilometers per hour will sow about 2 ½ acres every minute. The Miller self-propelled boom sprayer is becoming more popular and features a 120ft front mounted boom.

My responsibilities include running the shed with a team of guys. We have a few permanent staff but do employ several casual (backpacker) type staff from many different countries during our busy season. My experience as the Robert Black Bursar all those years ago still comes into play when dealing with staff issues.

We cannot build these machines completely at our facility as they are simply too big to transport, so we construct as much as we can and then they are prepared for transport which involves stacking frames on top of each other and crating up many other parts which will be used in the final assembly at the dealers yard which could be thousands of kilometers away, so plenty of counting, photographing to ensure things are where they should be for transport. As one who is always up for a challenge I have found this role very rewarding, it has been great to achieve many efficiencies and reduce building costs and at the same time still end up with a high quality machine ready to do its work. As I write this we have just started building our 70th machine for this financial year.

As mentioned earlier I still produce my motorcycle photographic calendar, I also sell on weekends other motorcycle apparel and gifts at markets, shows and events this also keeps me busy and has the potential to grow a lot more.

On a personal note, I didn’t get married and have children as expected, (I was probably too busy) but today I live with my partner Melissa (she has two adult children) along with a couple of border collies in the hills of Perth.

Life hasn’t just been about work. Australia is quite an amazing place, from drought to flood and everything in between, an ancient continent with a modern way of life. When not working I like to hook the 4WD to the camper trailer and head to the outback and explore the vastness of this part of the world, something I never get sick of photographing.

Looking back this has been an amazing journey and the experience gained should never be forgotten. To be able to say that I helped pioneer a new West Australian industry is something to be proud of. To have forgotten how many times I got the vehicle and trailer bogged in the wet years and how many times I nearly choked on the dust in the dry, yet still managed to maintain a sense of humour. To still be employed in an agricultural industry today if not quite where I started off is very satisfying.

My journey will continue as will yours. Chadacre and my time and experience there is very much engrained in my mind and I am sure it helped me gain the confidence as a young man to tackle the challenges that life was about to send my way.

To all of you in the Chadacre family, I hope things are great in your paddock too!

John Branton
A Refreshed Strategic Focus for Easton and Otley

A lot has happened at the College since I penned an article for this magazine just over a year ago.

Earlier this year government set in motion a country-wide review of colleges designed to secure better financial viability, mainly to be achieved through the process of merger. The last wave of this process is due to commence in Norfolk and Suffolk later this year. Thankfully Easton and Otley merged 4 years ago and have a head start on all the other institutions that are now facing the prospect or grappling with the detail of what is a most disruptive event. For a good example close to home we only have to look East to the coast and observe the distractions that Yarmouth and Lowestoft Colleges are dealing with.

So instead, we have been concentrating our effort on ‘putting the house in order’ after the disruption of merger and also revisiting our Mission and Purpose. What is abundantly clear is that the economy of East Anglia is essentially built upon the foundation of the rural economy and a vibrant agricultural sector. We have some of the most productive and high quality agricultural sectors together with some of the best supporting industries in our agricultural and horticultural engineering firms. But this sector cannot and will not flourish and prosper unless it effectively competes for the attentions of the next generation of young people coming into the labour market. That places a key responsibility on all interested parties to raise the profile, and promote and celebrate the great careers and occupations that the industry has to offer.

Starting in July 2015, and culminating in the summer of 2016 our Board of Governors, led by Sally Bendall and our senior team, have worked diligently on a new strategic plan and sense of purpose. This has been shared at stages along the way with key stakeholders, culminating in a dinner held at the Otley campus in May. Flowing from our new strategy is the idea that all our work is concerned with ‘inspiring skills for a sustainable future’.

This leads to me to update you on our latest thinking in terms of agricultural courses and our corresponding farming activities. Despite the fact that the College has invested nearly £40m in new facilities over the last decade, there has been less investment in our farming activities. In recognition of this we conducted a review of our farming enterprises across Norfolk and Suffolk and, following consultation with students, industry stakeholders and staff, we agreed a plan for change and some significant new investment.

In recognition that dairy farming is now a minority sport in East Anglia, we have decided, with some significant regret, to disperse the high yielding, high status and award winning dairy herd at Easton, to enable a new investment in a beef suckler herd. This will be of more relevance and interest for a greater proportion of our students. We will be working with local farming partners to provide access to dairying for those few students that remain interested in learning about the sector.

We intend to establish a pig breeding unit in partnership with a commercial operator, to link with our existing finishing unit and to provide more students with more access to an ‘all-through’ enterprise. We have negotiated an extension to our farmed land with our landlord at the Otley campus and this will support an expansion of our sheep flock from the existing to 100 ewes and a total expansion in sheep across both farms to 400. We will employ a dedicated stockman based at Otley to facilitate greater access to and support for the curriculum. Finally we will refurbish and extend the facilities available for demonstrating poultry husbandry at Easton in recognition of the importance of this sector to the region.

All this reflects that student numbers studying agricultural are higher than ever. At the latest count we had 320 young people (and some not so young) studying agriculture and agricultural engineering last year across our two campuses. Of which 135 were attending full-time courses and 160 were pursuing apprenticeships through a work based learning route. Courses on offer range from the introductory level 2 programme for young people with lower level GCSE’s through to honours degrees validated by the UEA. Attendance modes include full-time study programmes, part –time and short courses and of course the employed status of block or day release apprentices. All in all, a one stop shop for agriculture in the East of England.

David Henley Principal and Chief Executive
I am writing to update you and the Chadacre trustees regarding the progress relating to my agriculture course at the Royal Agricultural University for which you very kindly gave me £1500 worth of funding last year. I have now completed the course and am very pleased to inform you that I received a distinction. The money enabled me to focus fully on the course. During the course of the year I completed units including: Farm Enterprise Management, Farm Business Management, Organic Production and Marketing, World Agricultural Issues, Small Scale Farming, Environmental and Woodland Management and Farming and Integrated Environment Local Delivery (FIELD). I studied soils, crops and livestock management and husbandry and generally tried to get a good overall understanding of the industry. I visited numerous farms across the Cotswolds and west of England region to see what I had learn in practice as well as spending a week in Yorkshire at the end of the year. I was also able to make the most of the ‘Rural Skills’ centre at the University where I was able to get some practical machinery experience.

The course has had some immediate direct impacts. Firstly, as a result of undertaking one of my units (Farming and Integrated Environment Local Delivery), under the tutorship of FWAG’s Jenny Phelps MBE, I was able to come up with a project plan and associated funding bid that will lead to a project to protect the sea walls surrounding my family farm in north Essex. Secondly, it has resulted in me getting a job straight away, working with the National Trust in Somerset - engaging with farmers and the local community on one of their estates, investigating how to move the estate forward in a time of immense uncertainty. Thirdly, it has improved my knowledge base surrounding the industry significantly and this has improved my prospects in furthering my ‘sub’ career as an agricultural and environmental writer - for example, I have just had an article commissioned by the Sustainable Food Trust which will be published within the next few weeks - this would have been far more difficult without having spent this year at Cirencester. It has given me the confidence to pursue this route as a freelancer. Fourthly, it has enabled me to understand the ‘ins and outs’ of our own family farm business at home far more than before and has put me in a much better position for moving the business forward in the future. For the moment my father will continue to lead the business as I build experience in the general industry elsewhere in the country. However, I aspire to return to Essex and the farm in the not too distant future.

Once again, thank you very much for your support!

Ben Eagle

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A long hot summer then Chadacre - memories of 1976 by Steve Ruddock

I left school in May 1976 having gained a place at Chadacre. The week I left school, the famous ‘hot summer of 1976’ started and I was working on my father’s farm at Cockfield near Bury St Edmunds.

I remember that long hot summer on the farm, with the large field, forest fires, water rationing, shortages, and a poor harvest over by early August (very unusual for a heavy land farm!) The very week I started Chadacre, in October 1976, the heavens opened and it rained for a fortnight. This made the potato and sugar beet harvest difficult.

At the Institute, life was always eventful! Especially being a timid First Year student. Mr John Paton-Phillips was principal. In my time at Chadacre I have made friends for life; Mark Redgate, Peter Knott and Jimmy Boreham to name a few.

Yours,
Steve Ruddock

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French Connection

When agriculture leads to Rugby...

For a fortnight the Lycee Agriculture of Coulounieix is host to a class of young English agricultural students on an exchange visit with class students from the Dordogne. For nearly three weeks they learn about the rural economy. But sport is not forgotten and last Wednesday a friendly match of rugby was held between the English and Perigourdins. The conditions were unfavourable; snow covered ground and fog hampered the players however they fought for their honour.

Above is a French newspaper article translated by Ted Pine – do you know any more about this match? If so email admin@cosa.org.uk
Fun on the Water

On the 17th June the 1953-55 year organized a large cruise on the river Orwell. We chartered the whole barge and after much consideration agreed to invite our “First Years” (1954-56) to have a little fun on the water (or in it!!). As it turned out, it was a day of rain in the Ipswich area so we got wet in any case.

There were 53 of us in total, only 7 without connections with Chad.

It turned out to be a very successfully day and ‘get together’, as the barge enabled us to keep dry, and excellent catering in the hold. The bar was open all the time for the 4 ½ hour cruise and we all had a ‘HAPPY TIME’.

The cruise went from Ipswich Marina down to Felixstowe and back. It just did not seem possible that on average it was 61 years since we were all at Chad together. As our gathering went so well (especially without any physical interruptions!!) it has been agreed to have another reunion next year with a tour of the Elveden Estate, which will bring back more memories. “Make hay when the sun shines and silage when it’s bad”

Vic Simmons

COSA Members remembered

We are truly sad to hear of COSA members passing. Below are a few names of former students, friends and governors of Chadacre Agricultural Institute that will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

JOHN BAKER Chadacre Student 1978-80 -

It is with great sadness to report the passing of John Baker. John was the elder son of Margaret and the late Richard of Creeting near Stowmarket. He had a brother, Andrew (Freddie) and sister Susan (Sue). From a very young age John was always keen on farming, at the age of 12 he had his own pigs, which he worked with before school.

He attended Chadacre 1978-1980; becoming Head Boy and Top Student gaining a Distinction in the NCA. John made many friends including Richard Catling who was his roommate whilst at Chadacre and remained best friends throughout the rest of his life.

After Chadacre John went back to the family farm. He joined Stowmarket Young Farmers Club where he met Kay his future Wife. For Kay’s 21st birthday he gave her one of his pigs (the old romantic!) which produced many litters and proved quite a little earner!

John had ambition and soon moved from the family business to become Assistant Farm Manager for Associated Farmers at Willisham Hall, Suffolk. He and Kay married in 1985 and John took a job managing a light land farm at Burnham Market, Norfolk, where their son, William was born. After a few years John took on the position of Manager at The East Anglian Real Property Company Farm at Cantley, a larger farm which presented new challenges. At Cantley, Norfolk their daughter Sarah arrived, completing the family.

In 1998 John moved to the Thoresby Estate in Nottinghamshire as Farm Manager. The family spent eighteen happy and very successful years on the Estate; making lifelong friends within the area. During this time he introduced vegetables to the farming rotation in particular onions, parsnips and carrots with large scale irrigation, let land for an outdoor pig unit and introduced highland cattle. At the same time he enjoyed a good working relationship with the farm staff who had the utmost respect for him. John also became Finance Director for a local produce company and for two years, was Chairman of Notts Farmers Club. One of the highlights of John’s career was winning Farmers Weekly, Farm Manager of the year in 2012.

Despite how busy he was John always made time for the important things in his life, family, fine wine, friends, holidays, France and Kentucky Fried Chicken!

In early February John lost his two year battle with a brain tumour, which he fought with great dignity and courage. He leaves wife Kay, son William, daughter in law Kim and grandson Billy, daughter Sarah and Son in law Ollie.

Submitted by John’s good friend Robert Bull who is remembered overleaf.
It is with sadness that I find myself writing this to inform all those students and members of staff who were at Chadacre between 1974 - 1976 that we have lost a fellow student.

Robert started Chadacre in 1974 and must have been one of the youngest students in that intake. Whilst there he got stuck into the life of a Chad student – studying of course but also with trips up to the Bush to have the odd pint and getting into the rugby team! All these themes were to be continued after Chad as Robert went onto become a first class farmer, played rugby for Bury Rugby Club and always enjoyed the odd pint!

On leaving Chad with a credit in the National Certificate in Agriculture, he went back to the family farm at Hitcham nr Stowmarket where he joined his father and brother.

He became an active member of Stowmarket YFC where he went on to becoming it’s chairman in 1978-1979 and then two years later 1981-1982 was county chairman.

It was whilst at young farmers that he met Suzanne Bullock who came from a farming family at nearby Cotton, fell in love with her and the couple were married in 1984. They have two sons – Michael and Christopher.

During the late 70’s and 80’s the family farm at Hitcham expanded quite rapidly by acquiring neighbouring parcels of land and their farming is greatly respected in the area.

Robert was an active member of NIAB TAG as he enjoyed the agronomy side of the business and was BASIS qualified. He enjoyed attending his local meetings to further his knowledge and this gave him the chance to meet up with likeminded people to discuss the developments taking place in the industry. He also enjoyed hosting NIAB TAG meetings on his farm to discuss topical points and it was on one of these meetings only ten days before his death that we met for the last time. Although it was obvious that he wasn’t well - he had been unwell for some time - there was no way that I could ever imagine that that was to be the last time I should speak to him!

Now of course his life was cut far too short - however with the love of his family - Suzanne, Michael and Christopher, his farming, and his friends I feel his life was fulfilled.

Michael Craske

BRIAN WILLIAMS

Brian Williams the former president of the Ipswich YM RUFC and Eastern Counties Rugby Union Mr Williams was given the honour in 2008/09 of becoming the 100th president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), the governing body for rugby union in England.

He had played the sport since 1952 and also coached the Ipswich YMCA, Suffolk Youth and Eastern Counties teams before becoming a referee. He was appointed to the position of RFU president following his hard work and dedication to grassroots rugby. During his presidency, he continued his local rugby approach by travelling the country, visiting rugby clubs and keeping alive the RFU presence.

In 1998, he took on the role of tour manager of the England U21s side when they visited Argentina.

He has remained a significant part of Ipswich YM for more than 50 years and was particularly proud of his Suffolk roots. In an interview in 2008, he said: “I love Suffolk. I have never lived anywhere else.”

MARTIN BARKER 1972-1974

Former Chadacre Student Martin Barker and his wife Nicky ran Nuthampstead Shooting Ground for many years hosting major competitions in the international trap disciplines.

Martin coached shooters of all ages many of whom went on to achieve much in the sport and, until recently, he was the GBR Coach for Double Trap.

A stalwart of international trap shooting who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. OLYMPIC shooting medallist Steve Scott has paid an emotional tribute to his former coach who died after Steve’s triumph in Rio.

Martin died suddenly having been too ill to travel to Brazil to see Steve take the bronze medal in the double trap at the Olympics. However his legacy will live on as Steve commented, “We have the best facility in the country thanks to Martin Barker.”