



Chadacre
Old Students Association



Chadacre Old Students Association

Newsletter
Autumn 2015





Committee and Contacts

President Earl of Iveagh

Vice Presidents Elspeth Dennis Jones
John Paton Philip
Vic Simmons
William Sloane

Officers

Chairperson Robert Bendall
Vice Chair Bob Waller
Hon Treasurer Michael Mumford
Hon Secretary Sally Bendall

Committee

David Bradshaw, Will Duchesne, Martin Jackson, Roger Kelk,
Roger Lintott, Stuart Pulford, Steve Tompkins, Colin Warne,
Clem Warner, John Watson

Contacts

Change of member details or address and email address updates to be sent to:

Email: admin@cosa.org.uk

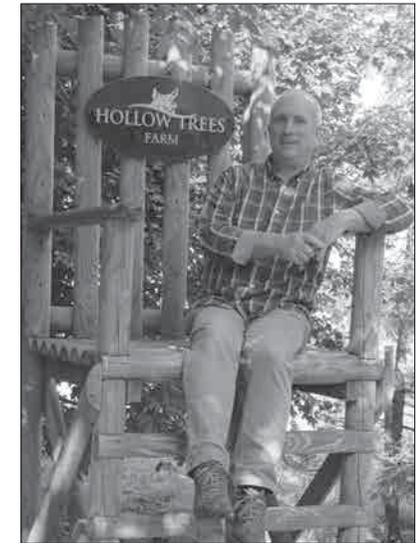
or

Sally Bendall
COSA - Secretary
Hollow Trees Farm
Semer Ipswich
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www.cosa.org.uk

What do we do now?

We have met our target of a 25 year celebration for every student year. Since then the winter reunion and farm walks have continued to be well attended and turn a small profit. However, the cost of this newsletter and spring postcard means the organisation is running at a loss and the money is starting to run out. A short term option has, in the past, been to apply to the Chadacre Trust to cover some or all of the costs. It would be good to have your opinion on how the organisation should move forward.



Robert Bendall

I recently read an archive article in the Bury Free Press of the very first Chadacre speech day (it is 11 x A4 pages long so I won't pass it all on!) It did report that the first Lord Iveagh initially founded the Institute in 1920 but due to the length of time taken in carrying out the alterations and additions to the buildings, the institute was not handed over to the governing body until 1st October 1921. Maybe these dates might give a possible answer to my earlier question about how the association moves forward. 2020/21 is fast approaching and the fact it will be 100 years since Chadacre began is a great mile stone. Maybe COSA should stage some kind of centenary celebration? We have an increasingly large box of archive material that would make a small exhibition.

Whatever we do, to keep the tradition we will need to include plenty of Guinness! There is much food for thought so do contact me and again let me know how you think COSA should move forward.

What *is* clear to me as I read all the articles throughout this 2015 newsletter is that COSA members and the agricultural industry are indebted to Lord Iveagh for his forward thinking and generosity all those years ago.

And finally, I hope to see you and your family at Stoke by Nayland Hotel on November 20th. Put the date in your diary now!

Robert 'Judge' Bendall
COSA Chairman

Farm Walk 2015

John Watson on the price of Christmas Trees!

The annual farm visit was in East Suffolk at Red House Farm, Sternfield, by the kind invitation of Ian Rix. It was well attended by over eighty old Chad boys, their wives and families. Ian went travelling for a year to Australia and Asia when he left Chad and on his return worked on the family farm and also rented some land. In recent years he bought the farm at Sternfield from his father and now runs it together with some land in the Snape area.

The farm is basically a family run business plus two farm workers. Cropping at the home farm is wheat, rape and Christmas Trees, with designated areas of nectar producing wild flowers in an environmental scheme. On the lighter land at Snape are grown root crops, onions, carrots and potatoes.

Since buying the farm Ian has made full use of all existing buildings. He has converted old stock buildings into holiday lets and has renovated a large barn at considerable cost for the Christmas Season. Eventually, with a few more improvements it will be hired out for Wedding Receptions and other large functions. Electricians and other services have been positioned in such a way that the barn could be converted in the future for residential purposes. Now that is forward planning for you and that is exactly what Ian has. Everything is done and built to purpose with a great deal of thought to efficient use of labour.



Back to Farming Apart from the arable, Ian has a contract with Gressingham's to produce ducklings which are housed in four large rearing sheds which hold 20,000 ducks each. These were erected in almost consecutive years as the business grew. That side of the farm business has been steadily growing also.

Ducklings come onto the farm at a day old and have to be finished before 55 days to be sold as duckling. The ducks are bedded on chopped straw which is delivered by a tractor drawn straw chopper using half tonne Heston bales. These bales are housed in a custom made barn which allows automatic stacking from a trailer. Muck from the rearing sheds finds its way back onto the land.

The large renovated barn I mentioned earlier is used for the Christmas event at Red House farm and is open from October until Christmas Eve. It sells all manner of seasonal things, has two Father Christmases ---- now how does that work? And of course Christmas Trees for which Ian received a National Award in 2010.

You know I have always thought what a rip off the price of Christmas Trees was. How could you charge that amount of money for a tree grown on a rough old piece of land I now know why. Ten years before harvesting!!! Fertilizer costs!!! Manual disbudding to create the perfect shape! Songbirds perching on the top of trees can bend the growing tip and make it worthless. Plastic perches are clipped onto the trees to prevent this happening, which is another manual task.

The evening came to an end with a very tasty BBQ washed down with some very fine ale. To finish I must say how impressed I was with Ian's business, which is constantly evolving through his willingness to diversify and I wish him and his family every success for the future.

John Watson



The 2016 COSA Farm Walk

By kind invitation of Richard & Will Duchesne

Friday June 10th 2016 at 6.30 pm
Hall Farm Stanningfield,
Near Bury St Edmunds IP29 4RB

A charge of £5 per person, payable on the night will be made to cover ongoing COSA administration costs.

The 2016 walk will visit two independent but connected businesses. Brothers Will and Richard Duchesne farm separately but beside each other. It all began when their parents, Mark and Barbara, purchased Seymour Hall Farm, comprising of a house, buildings and a couple of meadows. They moved in the spring of 1970 and started by keeping sows and rearing pigs. During the first two years Mark also retained his job in the office at Clark and Butcher flour mill at Soham but gradually built up the pig herd too. In the mid-1980s Mark and Barbara managed to buy back the 180 acres that originally went with the farm. Early in the 1990s they sold the pig herd and went into contract finishing pigs.

Richard and Will both attended Chadacre (81/83 & 84/86) and returned to work at Seymour Hall Farm with their father as well as gaining experience on other farms too.

Today, Will farms in partnership with his father Mark at Seymour Hall Farm which consists of 550 acres of combinable crops and 3600 contract pigs 7kg to 100 kg finishers.

Richard farms next door at Hall Farm in partnership with his wife Ruth. Hall Farm is 900 acres and Richard undertakes some contracting work too. Richard and Ruth also sell Christmas Trees, accessories and Turkeys. Will and Richard are both forward thinking and looking to expand their different enterprises. The farms are independent businesses but Will and Richard will help each other out when needed.

We look forward to an interesting evening visiting both farms. Refreshments and the COSA AGM will follow the farm walk.

Winter Reunion Dinner Dance 2015 Stoke by Nayland Hotel Friday 20th November 2015

This Year's Winter Reunion is a Family Affair

Chadacres influence goes way beyond just its former students. Families of ex Chad students are as important in keeping the old students association going as members themselves. Over many years wives, partners and children of COSA members have met and made lifelong connections and friends all thanks to Chadacre. It is only fitting that we celebrate that fact this year at our Winter Reunion Dinner Dance.

Why not book a table for your family?
Bring along your children (16 years+) and enjoy a night out all together, amongst friends.

For just £40 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 web site and the deadline for ticket sales is **Sunday 15th November**.

Ticket payment options

2
WAYS TO
PAY

- By Card** - post to Mr & Mrs Mumford
- By Card** - phone 01449 741 247 (Hollow Trees Farm office)
to pay by all cards

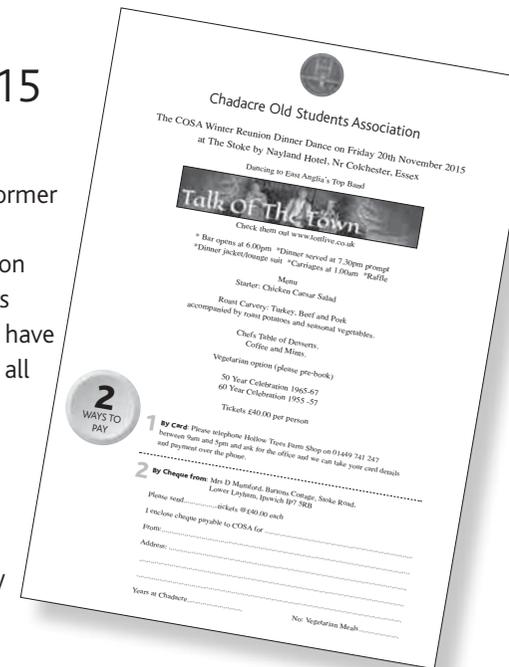
Hotel Rooms

Once again Stoke by Nayland Hotel have offered a great deal on rooms for COSA members. £99.50 based on two people sharing rooms.
Booking code 68793 www.stokebynayland.com

Dancing to Talk of The Town www.tottlive.co.uk

Anniversary Years

40th - 1975-77 50th - 1965-67 60th - 1955-57



Chris Hewick Student 78/80 - Staff 82/84

Chadacre and Onwards

After completing my Robert Black bursarship in 1984, I started working as assistant pig manager for W E & D T Cave Ltd, a large mixed farm employing 34 members of staff including fitters and carpenters. Christine decided to join me in Wiltshire and later that year we got married and moved into a farm cottage near Andover, Hampshire.

The company had two farms split 6 miles apart, with 500 British Friesian dairy cows divided into 3 herds and 4000 acres of arable land, 2000 acres owned and 2000 acres rented on Salisbury Plain. There were also two outdoor sow herds of 1000 pigs each and one indoor herd of 500 and we reared the pigs to pork/light cutter weight on a wet feed system. We produced all our own breeding stock and cubed all our own feed for the sows and dairy cows in a mill and mix plant.

After 5 years I was promoted to manager of the pig enterprise and mill and mix unit (I had to do barn records weekly!) and we increased the sow herd to 3500, with off-farm contract fatteners taking the pigs from 50kgs to 110kgs live weight.

After I was made a director in 1998, I started trying to source cheaper feed materials for the pigs and dairy cows, contacting various breweries and dairies in and around London and Portsmouth. This proved successful, but as the farm owners refused to buy our own vehicles I had to use 3rd party hauliers. We eventually settled on C H Hunts & Sons who offered us the services of Carl Brinkley and Chris Raison to haul the liquid products and Colin Hunt to transport the pigs. This side of things grew quickly and with contracts also secured at Greene King and Adnams, we started to sell surplus feed to other farms.



Hewicks Haulage

In 2000 the owners of the farm announced they were selling up and put the whole farm on the market as a going concern. However, it proved to be too large and after 6 months they broke it up into smaller parcels to be sold. Christine and I saw an opportunity to buy the goodwill of the liquid feed side that I had established and to start our own business together. By then our two children were 10/11 years old and thought that with my farming knowledge and Christine's accountancy skills we should take the plunge and strike out on our own.

By using my redundancy package we bought our house and used it to secure a loan to purchase 1 new lorry, 1 second hand lorry and two trailers. We decided to set up two companies, Cave Liquid Haulage Ltd run by ourselves for trading animal feed and setting up contracts with the dairies and breweries and Hewicks Haulage Ltd for the transport and logistics. As I had no knowledge of how to run a transport company (or indeed how to drive a lorry!) I employed Carl Brinkley's expertise as Transport manager and Chris Raison as a driver and decided to base the transport company in East Anglia. As well as being close to their homes and one of our major clients Greene King, this was also convenient for hauling raffinate out of Bury St Edmunds and Wissington up to Liverpool and Avonmouth.

We rented Ray Tricker's old farm yard in Cockfield and used a leaky portacabin as our "office". After 4 attempts, I finally passed my lorry test in 2003 and by 2007 we had increased our fleet to 8 vehicles and made Carl a Director and Chris Raison Assistant Transport Manager.

On realising that our current premises would not be suitable going forward, we purchased the farm from Ray Tricker, moved out for 12 months, flattened all the old farm buildings and set about constructing the bespoke haulage yard we have today, complete with workshops that we rent out, wash bay, brake tester and modern offices. We also purchased 2 acres of land (the most expensive agricultural land in England!) next door and developed it in to parking, giving us the opportunity to increase our fleet and receive a rental income from other hauliers.

Today Carl is our Operations Director securing new contracts, Chris Raison is Transport Director holding an International CPC licence which enables us to operate both nationally and in Europe, we have just opened a new operating centre in Manchester and we employ a total of 45 staff, including Colin Hunt who oversees all the Greene King collections.

As for Christine and I, we are lucky enough to let our more than capable staff run the day to day side of the business whilst we divide our time between our villa in the south of France and our home in Andover.

Plenty of time to think about my next project.....!

Chadacre Trust Report

Chadacre Trust Supports Local Student



The Chadacre Legacy continues as the Trust continues to distribute grants and fulfil its charitable objectives of supporting agriculture in the region. The Trust are always pleased to hear the progress of recipients of grants and one such case is Jake Richards from New House Farm Lawshall.

Having just completed my BSc in Agricultural and Crop science at the University of Nottingham, I'm very pleased to say that the past 3 years have been extremely useful and enjoyable.

Before enrolling in September 2012, it was made very clear to me that I'd be adopting the motto 'work hard, play hard' and decided to do nothing else. Moving to a more urban area of the country, compared with the depths of East Anglia, seemed a daunting prospect however, it soon became apparent that this was a similar case to most of my course mates and quickly had been forgotten.

The school of Biosciences, where Agriculture is based, and the school of veterinary medicine and science are located at Sutton Bonington (SB for short) on a campus, which is set away from the main University (which is in the city). This gives it a feel that I'd liken to an agricultural college (probably not dissimilar to Chadacre). SB is complete with accommodation, academic buildings, sports fields, a gym, a shop and a bar - of course.

Shortly after arriving it was made very clear, by the older years, that it was almost compulsory to join the Agric's society and as a part of this I'd attended farm visits, pork pie factories, JCB factories and the annual beer festival.

The Nottingham Agricultural course is based on a modular structure where students are able to pick and choose modules based around food processing, crop physiology, genetics, animal production/nutrition, and many more. We also have to undertake a research project in the second and third year that accounts for a healthy chunk of the degree. Over this period, I worked with Dr Debbie Sparkes, who is currently working

with the British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO) on sugar beet research, where I looked at the effect of early season conditions on the canopy growth and development. Having thoroughly enjoyed this brief experience of Crop research I am pleased to say that the University and BBRO have accepted me as a PhD student funded where I'll be working on the effect of cover crops preceding a sugar beet crop.

As well as my academic work, I got heavily involved in the campus student guild. During my second year I held the position of Treasurer and Chair in the following year. During my time on the Guild I managed to get involved in many aspects of university life including the organisation of Freshers' week and the planning of a £10 million amenities building in the heart of the campus. From this I managed to make friends with people I'd not even thought I'd meet and have experiences that are a little different to most people; not least escorting a life size fiberglass cow (as you can see in the photo) a mile up the road at 12 am on a trailer after a summer ball.



Jake Richards

But before I could experience three years at SB, it almost didn't happen. During summer 2012, it became increasingly evident that the changes in student finance would mean that studying would be extremely difficult; if it wasn't academic fees it would be living expenses. Having younger siblings, I didn't have the luxury that some of my peers had, of having their qualification paid for by the business. After paying my rent for the year, which was not nearly covered by the student loan and was supplemented by harvest earnings, it was very difficult to see how I could afford to attend. Thankfully, after applying to the Chadacre Trust, I was given a grant that enabled me to attend for the three years and have a great time. Unfortunately some people aren't able to say that their degree was worth doing however, after the experiences I've had and the path that I'll be taking for the next 4 years it's quite easy to see that without the degree I'd not be able to go down that route and without the support of the Chadacre Trust I'd not have been able to get the degree.

Hello to COSA from the new Principal and Chief Executive of Easton and Otley College

It is a privilege to be invited to write a piece for your newsletter and also to be doing so as the successor to David Lawrence who retired a short while ago.

When David last contributed to this publication he remarked in some detail on the potential that the coming together of two Colleges offered to the farming and land-based industries of the region. So what do things look like now, three years on from the merger?



David Henley

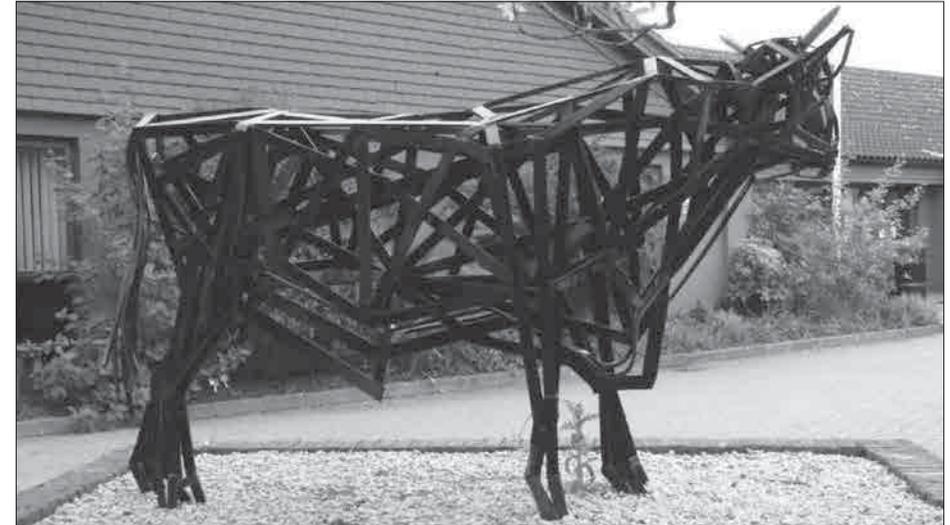
Easton and Otley is an independent specialist land-based college based on two campuses serving the Eastern region. Formed, as you know, by the merger of Norfolk and Suffolk institutions in 2012, we have a turnover of circa £23m and enrol more than 5,000 students each year across land-based disciplines, sport, public services and construction, recruiting from entry level and providing progression to degrees validated by the University of East Anglia, making the College one of the top 10 institutions, by size, of its kind in England.

We rely predominantly on income derived from full-time 16-18 students and apprenticeships, funded by the Department for Education, although we receive proportionately less income than similar colleges from Degree level courses and commercial activity.

Employing more than 800 staff, we recruit students from a large rural catchment area, with little direct competition from other land-based Colleges, but growing competition from General Further Education Institutions particularly in Suffolk.

Significant investment has been made in accommodation and facilities at both campuses, with Easton being especially well served, offering state-of-the-art teaching and practical workshop facilities set on an attractive campus, in a freehold 600 acre landed estate in close proximity to the regional capital. Otley is less well developed, but this is progressively changing as we prioritise and invest to bring the quality of facilities up to match that of the Easton campus. Recent additions include the new Boatfield Barn (now completed and in use), a new animal management centre and a new technology workshop. The renovations to the open spaces between the main teaching facilities completed last year have now matured giving a pleasant feel to the whole campus. There remains, though, the question of where best to relocate into a more prominent position, the Otley Bull!

In 2013 Ofsted inspected the merged College and awarded us a 'Good' overall. We anticipate that we will be due another inspection soon, possibly in 2015/16. There are always challenges to meet and our current priority is to embed the teaching of English and maths (a new government requirement) into the land-based subjects that we specialise in. Our apprenticeship programme performs well with 500 apprentices based in employment throughout the region, but we are aware



The Otley Campus Bull

that a pilot project called Edge Apprenticeships, formed of a partnership led by Anglia Farmers has caused some confusion in the marketplace and as the pilot comes to an end, we have decided to withdraw our apprenticeship programme from the Edge brand. Our Higher Education programmes perform well, having recently been revalidated by UEA, and teacher training delivered from the Otley campus is newly validated by Huddersfield University.

Having met with many key stakeholders during my first 3 months in post, I am aware that support for Easton and Otley College is high; from the industry, from farming charities and other organisations concerned with food and farming. Notwithstanding this, I also know that there has been a degree of evident frustration caused by a perceived lack of focus on agriculture, particularly at Otley. This is changing. We are re-investing in facilities to support growing numbers of students from Suffolk that wish to pursue a career in agriculture and related industries, we are re-invigorating our relationship with our stakeholders and working closely with a number of organisations to provide a more joined-up approach to the delivery of agricultural education and training, whilst sustaining a diverse curriculum that delivers a 'critical mass' of student numbers.

A £23m turnover college, supported by healthy cash reserves, offers scope for investment in new areas of activity and improvements in our business and IT systems. We are prioritising smarter ways of working so that we can improve our customer service. The Board of Governors met in July and determined that a strategic development priority is to focus on higher level skills, in order to reflect the needs of a rapidly changing technologically driven industry. As a consequence of this clear direction, we will develop new degree level programmes, together with short courses in technical and professional development areas, so that we can better serve the needs of the food and farming landscape of East Anglia. I hope you will watch this space with interest!

David Henley Principal

Chadacre connects with RABI



David Roe was a Chadacre student in 1966 – 1968. His claim to Chadacre fame is that he was one of the first people to milk with a bulk tank in 1968, David always enjoyed milking the cows and the practical side of the work. David’s mother was also a Chadacre summer student.

David and his mother both state that their time at the Institute was a highlight in their life, they look back with very fond memories and know their Chad days gave them both a good start in their respective farming careers. David also has good memories of playing cricket at the pavilion.

David is on the committee of the Suffolk Branch of RABI who are a very active group as Lucy Bellefontaine (RABI Regional Manager) explains

R.A.B.I - the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution - is a grant-making charity that helps farming people of all ages if they are in financial difficulty. Support is offered in confidence, and includes for example one-off or regular grants and the provision of essential household items and specialist equipment. In addition to funding relief farm staff and training, the charity can pay towards care home and home-help costs, and runs two residential homes of its own (Manson House in Suffolk and Beaufort House in Somerset).

R.A.B.I supports more than 2,000 farming families a year with grants of around £2 million. Its work is funded by voluntary donations, money raised at events arranged by county volunteer committees, businesses and community groups, our fundraising staff and investment income.

To find out more visit www.rabi.org.uk or call R.A.B.I’s confidential helpline 0300 303 7373.

Suffolk R.A.B.I have raised a fantastic amount of money so far this year which all goes into helping farmers and farming families in their time of need. So far in 2015 the committee have raised nearly £7000 from all their events.



The Suffolk R.A.B.I committee have already been busy this year holding some fantastic events, including a Sunday lunch in April, Suffolk Show and Hadleigh Show stands in May, NFU raffle in May, Music and Pimms in the garden in June, and Ladies tennis day in May. This autumn we have a quiz and supper night in October, and in December Suffolk RABI committee are holding their annual WASSIL, a Christmas extravaganza .We would love Chadacre members, their supporters and their friends to get involved with Suffolk R.A.B.I.

R.A.B.I have national campaigns as well, Farmhouse Breakfast (Jan/Feb), Great British Beef Week (April), Cream Tea (summer) and Welly Week (Oct/Nov), which Chadacre members can get involved in. Don’t forget to ‘like’ us on Facebook! You can keep up to date with all the events planned in your area by liking the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution – East Region page on Facebook, and also following us on Twitter @RABIEast

If you would like to know more about R.A.B.I and how to get involved please do get in touch. Or if you, or someone you know needs our help, Just Ask!

Lucy Bellefontaine lucy.bellefontaine@rabi.org.uk Tel: 07739 297374



From the Archives

It seems that poetry comes as natural talent to many COSA members:

CAVE—STAFF.

Into Mann's dorm we crept one night,
Intending to give her such a fright;
But alas—ready was she
With pillow in hand, what a spree!
Biff, bang, bump on the floor:
The fight had begun, then—oh! the door.
Enter Miss Thornbery, looking so glum,
Came in and spoiled such lovely fun:
"Five shillings fine for all you six,
Now get to bed and stop your tricks."

ONE OF THE CULPRITS.

RICHARD'S POEM

I wish I was a little lamb,
No cares or worries would I have
Of feeding pigs and hoeing beet;
Life for me could be so sweet.
Oh, to be a sheep-dog, just like Moss,
I'd show those sheep just who is boss
And take no notice of whistle or shout
From the shepherd or anyone else about.

I'd like to be a big red cow
And what about a landrace sow,
Then there is good old Tom, the horse,
I'd like to be as strong, of course.

When reading this you will agree
An animal I'd rather be,
Instead of just a lanky lad
Working hard in Ag. at Chad.

I hope you will not be misled
And think this is my work you've just read;
'Cos I'm strong in the arm and thick in the head
So my missus writes poetry, while I lie abed.

THE SON OF A GAMBOLIER (Chadacre Version)

CHORUS: For I'M the son, the son, of a son, the son of a Gambolier
REPEAT
Come all ye gay young fellows and drink your whisky clear
For I'm the roving rag of poverty, I'm the son of a Gambolier.

1. You'll soon be on the rugby field
learning the world's best game
But if its soccer that you like
it's considered far too tame
When you hear the shout 'Come on Chad'
You'll run just like a stag
And beat the guy to score a try
And get your name in the mag.

CHORUS

2. I went to milk a cow one day
and offered her my stool
She wouldn't sit her down on it
and said 'Yer bloomin' fool'
Is that what they teach you at Chadacre
To sit down while you work
Your hands are cold, but just get hold
and pull without a jerk.

CHORUS

3. I went to Home farm one day
Right early - in the dark
I saw a figure in the dark
I thought 'twas Frankie Sparke
I fell on my back in the FYM
and lost my hat and swore
It wasn't Frank who lifted my shank
It was Chadacre's large White Boar!

CHORUS

4. If in a dream I have a scheme
In tin or wood or plaster
I send for Derek who rolls his sleeve
and walks a little faster
He makes a fag from muck and bag
and fishes out his rule -
And soon there issues from his shop
the kennel, box or stool

CHORUS

5. To Smithfield and to Twickenham
We go each year by turn
But barley beef and penalties
Are not our main concern
It adds to our experience
But not the way you'd think
We love the sights and girls in tights
and Londons food and drink.

CHORUS

6. If you're to farm, you'll take no harm
If you have been to Chad,
You make hay when the seasons good
And silage when its bad;
You'll wear a C.O.S.A. tie
And watch a game of rugger
You'll stand treat to all you meet
and I'll bet you will you 'RASCAL' (According to company).

CHORUS

Editor's Note:-

It's interesting to note the alterations of words that have been made since my student days, to keep pace with the changes in farming and Chadacre in recent years.

Where are they now?



Chadacre Cross Country 1988



Very first speech day as reported by the Bury Free Press on Sat Mar 24th 1923.

Speech day was the previous Wednesday afternoon 21st March.

THE BURY CHADACRE AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE.
Distribution of Prizes.
One Record Already Attained.

The students at Chadacre Agricultural Institute held their first speech day at Chadacre Hall on Wednesday afternoon, when the governors, parents and friends attended what proved to be an interesting and instructive gathering.

In connection with the function the governing body issued their first report, which was for the fifteen months ending 31st December, 1922. They pointed out that in the Deed of Trust it was provided that the first report should be for the year ending 31st December, 1920, but, owing to the time taken in carrying out the necessary alterations and additions to the buildings, the Institute was not handed over to the Governing Body until 1st October, 1921. The cost of the Chadacre Estate, of about 600 acres, and of adapting and furnishing the house for the purposes of the Institute, together with the necessary equipment and stocking of the farm, was £110,000—the whole of which was defrayed by the Earl of Iveagh. In addition, Lord Iveagh has placed in the hands of trustees securities of a capital value of £79,150, as an Endowment Fund. The objects of