

WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Member

I hope you all had a restful Christmas and New Year. 2017 is already promising to be a busy one for the Society. The AGM location is still being finalised but the event is likely to be held in July this year.

In January I accompanied the Chairman, Treasurer and Council member Jessica Bryne-Daniel on a visit to Melton Mowbray Cattle Market to view the new cattle lines that are being constructed (see above). Following the tour of the construction site we then joined other cattle society officials for lunch. A presentation on the Rare Breeds Show and Sale organised each year by Grassroots Systems Ltd followed. We also heard about the Rare Breeds Survival Trust gene bank and the changes to the Zootechnical regulations, breed monitoring and FAnGR list with respect to special area payments and derogation from culling in the event of an exotic disease outbreak.

I hope you enjoy reading all of the Society updates in this newsletter and I will be in touch again shortly as further events are confirmed.

Best wishes, Jane



WHITE PARK COW AND CALF ARE CHAMPION RARE BREED AT CHELFORD

An Autumn breed sale was held at Chelford in Cheshire on 24 September. Although the WPCS did not hold its own show White Park cattle were entered into the overall show that was organised for all rare breed cattle. We were delighted when White Park cow Smoile Vivien was announced as the overall Champion! Many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Anthony Milner who bred Smoile Vivien and Jessica Bryne-Daniel, the current owner and vendor who presented her so beautifully in the ring.

At the sale Smoile Vivien and her calf PantGwyn Veritas then made the top price, selling at 2550 guineas to member Adam Ogden.



FACEBOOK "LIKES" INCREASE 20-FOLD IN 4 YEARS

The White Park Cattle Society Facebook page is going from strength to strength. From just 40 "likes" in 2012 we now have over 1,300!

If you have Facebook account and have not yet liked our page please do so and share posts with your Friends. You will be able to hear Society news on a regular basis straight into your Inbox or 'phone. It is probably no co-incidence that interest in joining the Society has also increased in the last couple of years and we are receiving regular emails from prospective new members.

We would also be pleased to see posts and comments from members on our Facebook page as it is great to hear your news and see photos of your White Park cattle. If you don't want to post personally then send your news and photos to Jane on whiteparks@aol.com so that our Secretary can post as the Society.



DINEFWR AIM TO INCREASE WHITE PARK HERD WITH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

You may have noticed in the farming press that the National Trust for Wales has started a major fundraising campaign to increase the numbers of White Park cattle that reside at Dinefwr Castle in Carmarthenshire. The Trust is aiming to raise £36,000 in order to purchase a new bull and some more females. Herd Manager Wyn Davies has looked after the cattle for many years now and is pictured left with the current females on the estate.

Adam Henson and a "Countryfile" film crew visited the estate in January and this visit will air on the programme on Sunday 12 February.



WHITE PARK CATTLE LEAP OFF THE SHELVES

Interest in the two White Park cattle figurines produced by Border Fine Arts has been so high that at the beginning of November only 20 bulls and 17 Cow and calves were still available for sale

Both figurines are limited editions with only 350 copies being produced. The artist was Ray Ayres who captured the true essence of the breed after several visits to sketch the cattle in the flesh.

[Grays Country Gifts](#) who are selling the figurines through their website predict that both the bull and the cow and calf will sell out very quickly.

If you are thinking of buying one of the figurines for a present please act fast so as not to be disappointed.



MEET THE SOCIETY OFFICERS

Although our Secretary, Jane Hampson, is the first point of contact for the WPCS the Society could not operate without the assistance of the many volunteers who work tirelessly in the background. Although many of you will have met our Officers and Council members at sales and the AGM we would like to give you further information on their support for the WPCS.

President **Lawrence Alderson CBE** (above) is our resident expert on the history and genetics of the White Park breed and has an in-depth knowledge on both subjects. Lawrence very rarely needs to refer to his notes to answer any queries and has a photographic memory of all of the bulls that have been registered since the Society was formed. Now retired, Lawrence and his partner Polly are enjoying touring many countries of the world although visiting White Park herds (in Canada) often comprise part of their itinerary! And whilst on holiday recently in France Lawrence was answering emails on a regular basis to assist with the production of our latest herd book. Lawrence also acts as a voluntary Bull Inspector and arranges for DNA analysis of hair samples to be processed.



Alistair Black (above left) has been Chairman of Council for 12 years now and has a wide knowledge of cattle husbandry. He has juggled his Chairmanship alongside a full-time job as a Manager, often working unsocial hours and travelling to Scotland on a regular basis from his home in Suffolk. Alistair spends many hours on the telephone during the evening on WPCS business and has forged personal friendships with many members.

Keeping the finances in order is Treasurer **James Gill** (above right). James and our Secretary are in contact by telephone every week to liaise over the day to day running of the Society and James speaks to our Accountants to draw up our end of year Report and Accounts. James also acts as a bull inspector and visits prospective new members. Vice Chairman **John Lean** is a full-time farmer who takes a special interest in contacting new members in the south west. John religiously attends Council meetings in Warwickshire from his home in Devon, driving more than 3 hours in both directions, and also attends every AGM, often driving many hours to reach the location. John's knowledge of livestock management and his enthusiasm are a great contribution to the society.



And the rest of our Council members are also actively working to promote our breed to a wider audience - **Jessica Bryne-Daniel** has written a welcome leaflet and spends time on other promotional activities, **Amy Cope** organised the production of our t-shirts which were sponsored by **Anthony Milner**, **Roy Critchlow** and **John Carrick** spend many hours preparing cattle to support our breed sales, and **John Barker** and **David Bradley** bring experience and wise counsel to our discussions. And **Frank Sutton** has been particularly generous with his donations to the Society. The Council has recently been joined by two new members - **Henry Rusch** and **Guy Myddelton** - who are already working behind the scenes.

Secretary Jane Hampson says "Volume 14 of the Herd Book was the first one that I have pulled together since taking over as Secretary and I would like to thank Lawrence for all his advice and support. He spent time on his holiday to reply to my emails and checked through the information before the book went to print. I would like to thank all Council members for their support - we all work very well together which all adds to the enjoyment of my role".

Do you regularly supply a farm shop or butcher with White Park beef? Or perhaps you sell it directly from your farm. Our Secretary is often asked for a list of outlets for our delicious beef and we would like to draw up a document that we can put on our website. Please contact Jane on whiteparks@aol.com with details if you are able to help.



ARE YOU A KEEN PHOTOGRAPHER?

In 2017 we would like to produce some Society Christmas cards but we need one or two good quality photographs of White Park cattle in wintery scenery. Quirky photos would be especially welcome! The photographers

and cattle will be acknowledged on the cards and we can also put on contact details if you so wish. So please have your cameras at the ready over the coming few months and send our Secretary your photos by 30 April 2017. If we get several good photos we will have a vote to select the best one.



STRAWS FROM A NEW BULL ARE NOW AVAILABLE

A new bull was sent to stud in December and we are delighted to announce that semen from Broadecton Clayton (above) is now available for sale at £10 per straw. To place your order please contact Jane on whiteparks@aol.com. The straws will be despatched by UK Sires who will invoice you separately for the transportation costs. It is slightly cheaper to have the straws sent to Genus.

Those of you who attended the 2016 AGM and Open Day at Broadecton Farm, the home of Henry and Julie Rusch, will remember that Clayton underwent a bull inspection prior to registration during the afternoon session. We would like to thank Henry and Julie for allowing us to use Broadecton Clayton for semen collection.



WELCOME TO TWO YOUNG MEMBERS

The White Park Cattle Society is always pleased to welcome new members. In December we were delighted to hear that William and Anna from Northern Ireland have become the proud owners of two

White Park females and are looking forward to showing them. The whole family has now become a member of the Society. It is great to hear that the younger generation are interested in our beautiful White Park cattle and we look forward to learning of William and Anna's successes in the show ring.

It is quite common to lend or hire a bull to another member who does not have their own bull or who does not want to use AI. However, it is a requirement by the owner to inform the Society Secretary of all incidences where their bull is used on another herd, otherwise the progeny may not be eligible for registration. Thank you.

BREEDING BETTER CATTLE

by Lawrence Alderson CBE, President WPCS

The article in the Summer Newsletter covered several different approaches to '**Breeding Better Cattle**' and invited members to respond with their own experiences. I have owned the Dynevor herd for 40 years and the following is an outline of my breeding policy during that time.

Linebreeding has been an essential part of my breeding programme. In my opinion random inbreeding is a pointless and potentially dangerous practise, but linebreeding enabled me to fix more firmly the qualities that I desired. It is essential that only genuinely superior animals are used, and I was fortunate that I identified such an animal early in my programme of selection. Dynevor Tawe 3 (born 1969) was a cow of **proven breeding quality**. She was a daughter of Dynevor Raven (a bull of great length and quality) and regularly produced good calves, especially daughters Tawe 5, Tawe 7 and Tawe 9 in successive years (1974-76), all being sired by Whipsnade 281.

The '**nick**' between 281 and daughters of Raven was evident in several cows, but Tawe 3 was the best example. On the strength of her record I kept a son

(Inglehill, born 1980) and then used ET to increase her influence. One of her ET calves was Troubadour (1982) which sired Dynevor Rampant, Hale Thomas and Broom Stephen – all successful sires in their own right. Several good young bulls registered recently have combined Rampant and Torpedo (see below) thereby linebreeding to Tawe 3. This also was **compensatory mating** as it sought to combine the length of Torpedo with the more powerful conformation of Rampant.



The daughters of Tawe 3 consolidated her reputation and her influence. Tawe 9 was dam of Toddington Daniel (1984), a good bull which was the sire of Ash Lucien and Larry and Gracedieu Gordon, although his progeny was inconsistent – probably to be expected as his sire (Rase Brutus) was small and below average. Tawe 7 was a big, scopy cow, and her first calf, Dynamite, achieved impressive results on MLC performance test. Consequently her next bull calf, Torpedo (1983), was retained and used as herd sire. His dam was bred from a ‘nick’ between Whipsnade 281 and a daughter of Raven, and his sire from mating 281 to a grand-daughter of Raven.

Torpedo established the next stage of the linebreeding policy and is the sire of outstanding sons – Calibre, Caractus, Taoiseach, Druid, Catfield David, Bickleigh Hobson and Teilo Gruffydd which we saw at the Broadecton AGM. He also has exerted a strong influence on notable younger bulls such as Pantgwyn Victor (Champion at 2016 Spring Sale, by Calibre out of a great-grand-daughter of Taoiseach) and Crane Majestic (2009) which is linebred to Taoiseach.

Taoiseach was the first calf of Tawe 26, and would appear not to follow the principle that only proven cows should be considered as potential dams of bulls. However, Tawe 26's dam, Tawe 21 (herself a grand-daughter of Torpedo's dam), was a remarkable brood cow and had produced three outstanding daughters, of which 26 was the best. It was a risk but Taoiseach's own linear assessment, and the quality of his progeny, justified the risk. He was **progeny tested** in comparison with several other bulls and sired progeny with an average weight advantage of 71 kg at 900 days of age. On the basis of a working life of say 3 years and maybe 10-12 steer calves each year, this gives an extra lifetime progeny weight of 2130-2556 kg. How much is that worth!



(Above - Dynevor Rampant)

However, it is clear from this example that planned cattle breeding through linebreeding is a **long-term project**. Allow for a 6-year generation interval or more to have good progeny evaluation. Starting with Tawe 3 (1969) through to Majestic (2009) was 5 or 6 generations in 40 years. I commend linebreeding to those with the courage and dedication it demands, but equally I admire those who trust their judgement and ability to go into the marketplace and select animals bred by others that may sometimes achieve their objectives more quickly. The family of breeders of White Park cattle is a broad church and we should cater for a diversity of tastes and types.

Lawrence Alderson CBE

We would like to thank Lawrence for providing this article. However, we would like to advise any member who is considering venturing down the same route as Lawrence to contact the Society office for an in-depth discussion beforehand in order to avoid any potential pitfalls.

Does any other member want to share their own experiences? Please forward your article to the Secretary on whiteparks@aol.com

At the time of writing research is taking place on the location for our AGM and Open Day for 2017. We very much hope to be able to give you the full details early in February. However, at the moment all we can tell you is that the event will be held in July. We will be in touch soon!



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Registered in England No: 5999330