



WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Member

Anniversary Dinner - Friday 21 July

AGM and Open Day - Saturday 22 July

The communication about our AGM and Open Day has taken longer than usual this year because of the importance of 2017 in the White Park calendar. As you will see from an article later in the newsletter, this year is a very special anniversary for White Park beef and we wanted to celebrate this in style. It took some time to secure the services of a very busy celebrity chef for our evening meal, but we hope that it will prove to be an evening to remember. Booking forms for the dinner and the AGM and Open Day have been circulated and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible (plus your friends and family) in Dorset in July.

Interest in White Park cattle is growing all the time and we have welcomed several new members in the last few months. Hopefully we may meet some of them at our AGM.

Best wishes, Jane



(A cow from the Bickleigh herd)

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

2017 is an anniversary year for White Park beef. Tradition states that in 1617 King James I knighted a particularly tasty loin of White Park beef during a meal at Hoghton Tower, near Preston, Lancashire. According to the Lancashire tradition, James I drew his short sword and told the Hoghton Tower pages to bring the beef to him. They went down on their knees and the king said "Arise, Sir Loin!"

To mark this momentous event our Open Day evening meal this year will be something quite special.

Firstly, the celebratory meal is being held on **Friday 21 July**, which is the evening before the Open Day. The location for the meal will be the dining hall at Hanford Girls' School. Our celebrated chef for the evening will be Dorset-based Mark Hix, who will prepare a meal of White Park beef supplied by Vice Chairman, John Lean. Mark Hix has a chain of UK-wide restaurants, the jewel in his empire being Hix Soho, and he is also a regular contributor to the Observer Monthly Food Magazine. We would like to thank John Lean for arranging the services of Mark, who is an incredibly busy man. Thankfully, as a lover of White Park beef, Mark made sure that his diary could accommodate our celebration.

This event is generously supported by Fortnum and Mason for which we are most grateful.

After the meal there will be a raffle with a variety of prizes that have been secured by Council members.

Tickets for this special meal are priced at £50 per head including wine and a booking form has been circulated.

Places are limited so please book your place as soon as possible, and by Friday 7 July at the latest.



(Photo of 2016 AGM at Broadecton Farm by Jan McCourt)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OPEN DAY FOR 2017

This year we will be travelling to beautiful Dorset for our AGM and Open Day. The date and time of the event is **Saturday 22 July at 11.00am** and we are being hosted by Mr and Mrs Mark Pearson at Hanford Farm, near Blandford, DT11 8HL. The farm is over 1700 acres and produces beef, sheep and milk. Hanford Farm is also a haven for wildlife and has a wide diversity of flora and fauna present on the land.

The AGM meeting will be held in the dining hall of Hanford Girls' School, which is an independent day and boarding school situated on the estate. The hall is a glazed courtyard surrounded by wonderful medieval architecture.

After the AGM we will be having a tour of Hanford Farm.

This year the refreshments for the day have been subsidized and we are therefore able to offer attendance at this event for a charge of £10 per head.

Hanford Farm is another stunning location for our AGM and Open Day and we hope as many members as possible will be joining us.

In 2017 four members of Council resign by rotation: Anthony Milner, David Bradley, Frank Sutton and Roy Critchlow.

We are pleased to announce that Anthony, David and Frank have agreed to stand again for election to Council.

Unfortunately Roy Critchlow will not be standing again for re-election. Roy has been a keen supporter of our pedigree sales and has entered stock from his Heathylee herd. Roy also sponsored our perpetual cup for the best White Park female. We would like to thank Roy for his support over the years and wish him well for the future.

There are therefore 4 vacant places on Council. A nomination form to be a Council member has been circulated. To qualify, prospective Council members must have been a member of the WPCS for 4 years and be prepared to attend 4 meetings a year in south Warwickshire, plus the AGM. The nomination form should be returned to the office by 10 June.

COUNTRYFILE VISITS VICE CHAIRMAN JOHN LEAN

The Bickleigh herd of White Park cattle was showcased on TV on Sunday 9 April when Adam Henson, presenter on the BBC programme "Countryfile", visited our Vice Chairman John Lean to buy some new stock for a friend. Adam had a tour of the Bickleigh herd and met Audrey, who at nineteen years is the oldest White Park cow on the farm and gave birth to her final calf at the age of seventeen years. After the visit to Devon Adam then visited the butcher in London that John Lean supplies and watched as a piece of White Park beef was cooked to perfection.

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White Park cattle are very much in the news at the moment as the cattle at Dinefrw Castle in Carmarthenshire have also been TV stars in recent weeks (see photo above with Manager Wyn Davies).



WHITE PARK CATTLE TRAVEL TO NEW HOME IN GERMANY

In late 2016 Arche Warder farm park in Germany contacted us to say that they were looking to purchase some White Park cattle. There are already several herds of White Park cattle in Germany, but the farm park was a new contact for the Society.

Chairman Alistair Black was keen to ensure that the right cattle travelled to Germany, and so he spoke to some likely members to source two females and a bull for the park.

The farm park is now the proud owner of heifers Cadzow Lyndsay and Cadzow Lacey, who travelled to Germany from Haddington in the Borders of Scotland, and bull Wytch Osprey who travelled from the Pitman's farm in Dorset.

Daniela from the farm park is delighted with her new arrivals and says that they have all settled in well. We look forward to hearing further news.

Transporting our cattle to their new home in Germany proved quite a problem. However, the day was saved by Mr Winter of Sussex, a haulier who specialises in transporting small numbers of animals to the continent. If you ever need these services please consider giving him a call for a quotation. Tel: 07793 844951 or email: wtawinters@hotmail.com



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 - taken by Jan McCourt) 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.

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.

Hiring out a Bull

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.

OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH WHITE PARK CATTLE

Do you know anyone who would love to manage their own herd of White Park cattle?

Members Helen and Mark Clark have a herd of around 45 all told, including Pass Plus stock bull Smoile Wilbur, cows and followers. Helen and Mark established their herd in 1982 with two in-calf cows from Joe Henson's Bemborough herd at Cotswold Farm Park. But now that age is catching up with them Helen and Mark would like either full or part time help with their herd. A three bedroom cottage could be provided.

Applicants need to good all rounders, motivated and keen to promote the White Park breed. A single person, couple or a family are all welcome to apply.

Mark and Helen Clark live at Home Farm, Hale Hampshire. SP6 2RE which is in the New Forest.

If you are interested in finding out more, or know someone who might fit the bill please contact the Clarks on helenandmark44@gmail.com



New member Rita Williams was delighted with her first White Park calves, and we think that your photo is delightful Rita! We love to see photos of your White Park cattle, please send these to whiteparks@aol.com or upload them to our Facebook page.



IVOR WILLIAMS TRAILER FOR SALE

WPCS member Adrian Crocker has an Ivor Willaims Cattle Trailer for sale. It is a TA510 edition, 10' x 6' in size with a division. The lights, brakes and tyres all in good condition as the trailer has had little use.

However as you can see from the photo this trailer has been sign written with the head of a White Park cow, and so it should especially appeal to a member of the Society.

Adrian is asking £1,550 plus VAT for the trailer. If you are interested in finding out more please telephone him on [07771535850](tel:07771535850). Adrian (and the trailer) are based in Wiltshire.

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.

Do you have any White Park hides? We have been contacted by a London-based accessory designer who would like to use White Park leather and hide for her handbags. If you can help the designer please contact the office so that we can pass on your details. Thank you.



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