



PPhoto of Wytch Hawk taken by Jan McCourt at Hanford Estate

WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Secretary

Dear Member

After a cold winter and cold, wet spring I am sure that we are all looking forward to some better weather. And I am also looking forward to visiting Northumberland for our AGM and Open Day - a county I have never been to before. We have selected another fantastic location for our annual event and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

2018 sees a first for the Society - our very own magazine. Following a proposal by John Carrick there was enthusiastic support for the idea and we hope to launch our first edition in summer. Further details on the AGM and the magazine appear in the newsletter.

I look forward to hopefully meeting you in 2018.

Best wishes, Jane



(Photo taken by Jan McCourt at the 2017 Open Day and AGM)

AGM and Open Day for 2018 - Saturday 30 June

This year we are travelling to England's northern-most county for our AGM and Open Day.

Blagdon Estate is situated 8 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne in Northumberland, near the village of Seaton Burn and very close to the A1. The estate has been in the ownership of the Ridley family since 1700. It is also home to the Blagdon herd of White Park Cattle. Full details of the estate can be viewed on its [website](#).

Our itinerary for the day is as follows:

- 10.15am Arrival for coffee and biscuits
- 11.00am AGM meeting, followed by Open Forum
- 12.15pm Lunch
- 12.45pm Tour of the Estate and Blagdon herd of White Park Cattle
- 4.00pm Afternoon tea
- 4.45pm Depart

- 7.00pm Evening meal

Our meal on the Saturday evening will take place at the Ridley Arms in nearby Stannington, and will comprise a three-course menu to include White Park beef supplied by the estate. Salmon or a vegetarian option will also be available.

The area surrounding Blagdon Estate is famed for its beauty and is in easy reach of the North Pennines and the coast, so is a great place for an extended break.

A booking form for the AGM and Open Day has been emailed to you separately and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this popular annual event. We would like to extend our thanks to our host Viscount Ridley and Farm Manager Andrew who has supported us with the arrangements.



Blagdon White park cow and calf are calendar girls

The month of October sees a White Park cow and calf posing beautifully in the 2018 Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution calendar.

The annual RABI 'Farming in Focus' calendar, which is supported by the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust, helps to raise awareness of their work with farming families in need, as well as some much-needed funds. The images in the calendar are donated by professional agricultural photographers. The cow and calf are part of the Blagdon herd and are pictured in front of the house on the estate - very apt considering our AGM location!

The White Park Cattle Society Ltd Council

Council Nomination papers have been circulated.

In 2018 there are four members of Council due to retire by rotation: Alistair Black, James Gill, John Carrick and Amy Cope.

Alistair Black, James Gill and Amy Cope have indicated that they will stand again for election.

John Carrick has said that he will not be seeking re-election.

Maximum number of seats vacant five

Nominations for new members of Council must be returned to our office by 18 May 2018.



2018 is a special year for our Society, as in some respects it could be considered our centenary.

The 'Park Cattle Society' was formed in January 1918 with the Earl of Tankerville (Chillingham) as Patron, Duke of Bedford (Woburn) as President, and Duke of Hamilton (Cadzow) as Vice-President. However, the 1918 Society included horned and polled cattle.

By the 1940s the name had changed to the 'British White Cattle Society', and the President was the Duke of Hamilton and the Vice-President was Lord Dynevor. The senior office holders throughout the life of the herd book all owned heritage horned herds.

Following a lapse of thirty years or so registrations resumed in 1974 (herd book 1975) and the White Park Cattle Society was (re)formed in 1983 with the President being Duchess of Hamilton (Cadzow) and the Chairman G L H Alderson (Dynevor). Lawrence Alderson is now our President.



White Park Cattle Society Ltd magazine

There is an exciting development for the Society in 2018 - we are currently in the midst of producing our very first magazine. Led by Council member John Carrick a sub-group of Council is liaising with members and supporters to gather in articles and adverts to cover the costs of production. The magazine will be fully-funded by advertising and a generous donation from a Council member. It will be distributed free of charge to members. The magazine will also be used for promotional purposes.

If you would like to enquire about advertising or have an interesting story to tell please get in touch with the Secretary. Articles that are already planned include halter training calves, keeping White Park cattle outdoors all year round and the history of the breed, so the magazine will appeal both to members and other interested parties.

We also need lots of good photos of our beautiful White Park cattle and calves - so please get snapping!

General Data Protection Regulations

Many of you will be aware that the current Data Protection Regulations are being enhanced and new, updated regulations will come into force on 25 May 2018. These new regulations will apply to all businesses who hold personal data on their customers, clients or members. Council member Henry Rusch and our Secretary attended a Grassroots-organised training day on the new regulations which was presented by a solicitor who specialises in working in the not-for-profit sector.

As a result of the information gathered at the course we have been working hard to ensure that the Society remains compliant with the new regulations. All members will be sent details of the basis on which we process their data and how we protect their data. If you have any questions please contact our Secretary.

Abattoir in West Sussex

At the end of last year our Secretary was contacted by a small abattoir in West Sussex that wanted to source some White Park cattle to supply niche markets who had specifically requested our famed beef. Our Chairman and Treasurer made a fact-finding visit to the abattoir in February 2018 and were satisfied that it was a well-run family business that could process horned animals. The owner of the business is willing to visit members on-farm to agree a price per head.

If you would like to investigate supplying the abattoir then please contact the owner Richard Scott on 07836 250749 or email him on scott.kingslea@btinternet.com

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Do you use an abattoir that can process horned animals and which you would like to recommend to other members? Please send in the details to our Secretary and we will draw up a list of abattoirs.

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Jan McCourt

Member Jan McCourt of Northfield Farm in Rutland is looking for well-finished White Park steers ready for slaughter. Jan sells White Park beef from his on-farm shop and from his outlet at Borough Market in London. If you can help Jan please contact him on 0771 281 7097.

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Mobile slaughter houses

The idea of a mobile slaughterhouse was first investigated about 25 years ago in the UK, and they do operate in New Zealand. It was felt that this service could be of great interest to people with smaller herds. We would like to raise the subject at the Open Forum after the AGM so if you will be in attendance we would be delighted to hear your views.



Three donated White Park cattle move to Herefordshire

At the end of 2017 we were contacted by a non-member who had owned three White Park cows for several years, using them for conservation grazing only. The owner was retiring and had decided to re-home his White Parks. But he wanted them to live out their natural lives, as close as possible to his home, and had specified that they could not be used for breeding.

If we could find a new owner that met these criteria, the White Parks would be transferred free of charge. Luckily Dr Greenall of Herefordshire was only too willing to give the three females a retirement home. Following the necessary movement tests Stoneleigh Ashow, Stoneleigh Grandborough and Pepperbox Alderbury moved to Ledbury and are now living with five other White Parks in the beautiful surroundings of Bromesberrow Place.



Welcome to Edgehill Annie

New herds are being established all the time as new members join the Society and start a programme of breeding.

Annie is the first calf to be born to the Edgehill herd who live in Berkshire and are owned by Adrian Hoskins. Welcome to the Society Annie!

Government Consultation on the Future of Farming

You may be aware that the Government has launched a consultation called **Health and Harmony: The Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit**, offering farmers, landowners and food producers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of English farming and the environment.

The consultation is an opportunity for farmers and land managers to be more central to government thinking than any time for 50 years as the UK leaves the EU. The government is seeking views on:

- Options for how to gradually phase out direct payments, whilst developing a new environmental land management scheme.
- The range of public goods that could qualify for government funding under the new schemes,
- Measures to move away from heavy-handed enforcement which penalises farmers for minor errors,
- New business models and incentives for industry to invest in innovation and new technologies to increase their profitability.

The consultation will run for 10 weeks, closing on 8 May 2018. If you would like to put forward your views please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>

White Park Cattle Society Ltd
11 Church Street, Marton, Rugby, CV23 9RL
whiteparks@aol.com Tel: 01926 632560

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