



Cattle from the Wytch herd in Dorset, bred by Mr and Mrs Richard Pitman

Photo taken by Harriet Austin-Bowerman



WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Secretary

Hello everyone

I hope you are all well and have remained so during these last few months. The running of the WPCS has continued mainly unaffected during the pandemic, although of course our AGM and Open Day had to be cancelled. On 5 September we held our first Council meeting since late February and managed to socially distance in a large room with everyone present having their own table. But since then the regulations on numbers who can meet together have changed, so we don't know when we will be able to meet up physically again.

I have also had a major upheaval to deal with - after 22 years in the same house I moved home in October. However, now that I am finally in my new home I haven't moved far from my old house - just across the road! So only the house number has changed on our address.

With best wishes to everyone, Jane

NEW ADDRESS DETAILS

As from 30 October 2020 our mailing address will be:

**Archway Cottage
2 Church Street, Marton, Rugby CV23 9RL**

Tel: 01926 632560 (unchanged)

(Only the house number has changed - and all post is being forwarded from number 11 to number 2 for the time being).



Open Day for 2021

Following the cancellation of our 2020 Open Day and AGM due to the coronavirus outbreak we are pleased to confirm that the hosts, Mr and Mrs Tim Harris, have kindly agreed to host the 2021 event at Catfield Hall in Norfolk.

The date of the 2021 AGM and Open Day will be

Saturday 19 June

We will also be returning to the [Sprowston Manor Hotel](#) for our evening meal. Full details and a booking form will be circulated in early 2021.



Young male calf from the Stoneleigh herd taken by Debbie Dann

Potential breeding bulls

White Park bulls have to be inspected and DNA verified before they can be registered for breeding. Inspection takes place once the bull reaches 24 months of age.

If you would like advice on whether to keep a young male calf entire our bull inspectors are always happy to help out. Please send a photo of the calf to our Secretary Jane on whiteparks@aol.com and she will pass on the photo to the inspectors along with the details of the calf's pedigree.

WPCS Herd Book - Volume 15

Volume 15 of the White Park Cattle Society Herd Book should have arrived with you in the last couple of weeks. This edition of our Herd Book contains registrations which were processed in the year 2016 - 2019. Birth notified and unregistered animals do not appear in the herd book.

The herd book also contains details of transfers, herd prefixes, members as at 31 December 2019 as well as the breed profile information.

If you have any queries on this edition of the herd book please [contact Jane](#). Otherwise, we hope that you enjoy browsing through the information.

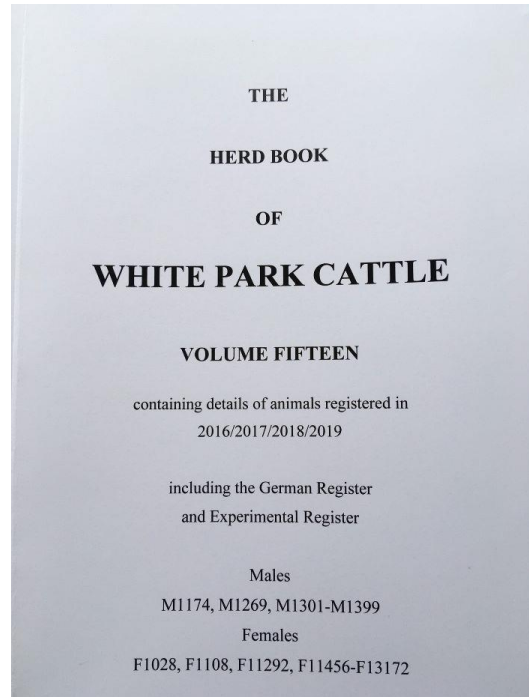


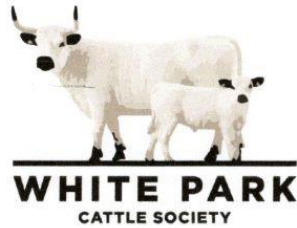
Photo of Broadecton cow by Jan McCourt

Pasture for Life Scheme

Several White Park members are also members of the Pasture for Life scheme, which certifies that meat and dairy comes from animals raised on only grass and pasture. The Pasture for Life scheme came about because a small group of farmers were concerned about the haphazard and often misleading use of the description 'grass-fed'

They wanted to provide opportunities for the efforts of genuine pasture producers to be properly recognised. All the farms in the scheme are visited to ensure the farmers follow a set of agreed production standards, based upon the animal's natural diet. Animals kept according to Pasture for Life standards are not fed any form of grain or manufactured feeds. The Certification Standards ensure that animals must be able to graze pastures when the grass is growing in the fields. In the winter months they can be given conserved pasture in the form of hay or silage or other agreed forms of forage.

To become a Certified Farmer you need to apply via a self-assessment form and the Association then arranges for independent, third-party auditing and a farm inspection. Once approved, farmers can market their meat and dairy produce under the Pasture for Life mark and use this logo on their food products as a sign that it is 100% grass-fed.



TRADITIONAL QUALITY WHITE PARK BEEF

This is to certify that the beef animal
described on this certificate is a

Pure Bred White Park

Birth Notified BN4321
Eartag No: UK12345/678910
Date of birth: 01/01/18
Sire: M1234 Mock Sire
Dam: F1234 Mock Dam

Date of issue: 22/02/2020

The information on this certificate is supplied by or on behalf of the breeder and/or the owner. Whilst every effort is made by the White Park Cattle Society Ltd to ensure the accuracy of the certificate, the responsibility for the accuracy of the information rests solely with the breeder and or the owner and not with the White Park Cattle Society Ltd. DNA testing of meat being sold as White Park beef may be carried out.

For more information please contact:

The Secretary, White Park Cattle
Society Ltd, Tel: 01926 632560

Email: whiteparks@aol.com

www.whiteparkcattlesociety.ltd.uk

Registration No: 05999330

New beef certificate

Many of you will be selling White Park beef either direct to restaurants or the public. Our new Beef Certificate will confirm that the beef being sold is from a pure bred White Park animal which has been notified to the Society and is held on our database with a full White Park pedigree.

To order a copy of a certificate please [contact Jane](#). The cost of the certificate is £5.



Photo by Jan McCourt

Report on Small Abattoirs

A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare on small abattoirs published in June highlighted the decline of licensed abattoirs in the UK since the 1930s and the subsequent impact on animal welfare.

The report shows how the number of licensed abattoirs in the UK has declined over the years, from 30,000 registered in the 1930s to just under 250 today. The loss of smaller, local abattoirs has meant that livestock may be required to travel longer distances within the UK. One of the Government's animal welfare objectives is to reduce travel time from point of production to slaughter. This objective requires there to be an adequate number of well-distributed abattoirs in livestock rearing areas. This objective is shared by farmers – the report outlines that throughout the evidence received, farmers felt very strongly that they wanted to keep journeys to slaughter as short as possible, not just because of concern for the welfare of their animals, but because they also felt longer journeys led to poor meat quality. The report makes a number of recommendations, including providing slaughter options that enable shorter journey times from point of rearing to point of slaughter, recognition of small abattoirs' contributions to animal welfare and environmental benefits and that public bodies, in particular economic partnerships or forums, see small abattoirs as essential infrastructure supporting the rural economy.



Cattle for sale

We have several bulls for sale [on our website](#). The Society bull inspectors are always available to give advice on which bull would suit your herd genetics and breeding plans, so please contact Jane on whiteparks@aol.com who will refer your query on to them. You can also

gain further information about any breeding bull on the [Bull Linear Assessment](#) sheet.

Registrations of animals

If you would like another copy of the new form for registrations please contact [Jane](#) or you can also [download a copy](#) from our website. The new form makes it easier to inform us about the colour of the calf. There is also a reminder that names must be no more than 12 letters. You can also inform us of birth, deaths and transfers [via Pedeweb](#). Please [contact Jane](#) if you need a reminder of your log in details or some instructions on how to use the system - but it is very user-friendly!

Did you also know that registered animals attract a higher compensation payment in the case of them being a TB reactor? The cost of the registration would be recouped many more times over and is therefore the best form of insurance.



The Quest to Conserve Rare Breeds
Setting the Record Straight
Lawrence Alderson



New book on quest to conserve rare breeds

By **Lawrence Alderson, CBE, President of the White Park Cattle Society**

The preservation of our genetic resources – our biological diversity – is an essential ingredient of sustainable life on Earth, and not something we can afford to lose. A new book written by the President of the White Park Cattle Society, Lawrence Alderson CBE, challenges often repeated ‘facts’ about livestock farming, straight from the horse’s mouth

Rare breeds expert Lawrence Alderson takes an expert approach from political and public circles. He recounts the creation and development of the rare breed conservation movement, addresses extinctions and genetic safe-guarding measures, and considers where we go from here. Challenged as we are by climate change, sustainability and feeding the world, perhaps it is these endangered animals that hold the answer. The Quest to Conserve Rare Breeds is priced at £29.99 and can be ordered from the website of the [Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International](#).