



WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Secretary

Hello everyone

Yet another year has drawn to a close. At least we were able socialise with family and friends over Christmas. I hope you all enjoyed the break.

I have now been in my new house for over a year but some of the WPCS post does occasionally get sent to my old house over the road. This isn't a big problem as our friendly postie, Dougie, knows that I have moved and can re-direct the post himself. But it would be helpful if members could use the new registration form with "Archway Cottage, 2 Church Street" printed on the bottom and also post any other correspondence to this address.

Looking forward to seeing some of you in Norfolk in 2022.

With best wishes, Jane

AGM and OPEN DAY FOR 2022

will be held on Saturday 18 June

**at Catfield Hall, Norfolk by kind permission of
Mr and Mrs Tim Harris**

The evening meal will be held at the
[Sprowston Hall Hotel](#)

Booking details will be sent in early 2022. We hope to see as many members as possible in Norfolk to view the Catfield herd of White Park cattle.



Registrations and birth notifications

Keeping our database of cattle up to date is important for the Society as the number of registered female calves born annually is used to calculate the breeding stock for subsequent years and determining our rare breed status.

Females who will be used for breeding need to be registered with the Society this can be done either online or via our paper form. If you inform us of the birth within 3 months, then the cost is £25 to receive your pedigree certificate. Late registrations attract a higher fee. An additional benefit of registering your female is that the pedigree certificate will ensure you receive a higher rate of compensation should you be unlucky enough to have a reactor to TB.

Male calves and non-breeding females are birth notified or unregistered and this is free of charge.



Annual Herd Census

Each year we send every member who own cattle a “**Census Request Form**” which lists the cattle we hold for them on our database. We ask them to confirm the details or make any changes including additions; then return it to us. We need to maintain

the correct information in order to keep a check on our number of breeding females for reporting to Defra and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

The census for 2021 was requested in January 2021 and disappointingly there was less than 50% response from members who own cattle. The non-return of the census meant that our database was not updated with births, deaths and transfers which had a potential impact on our rare breed status.

It is therefore imperative that all members who own cattle correct

and update their Census Form and immediately return it to our office, even if there has been no activity whatsoever for many years. You can confirm your details using our online registry, or by returning the paper form or emailing Jane.

Your prompt co-operation and understanding will save considerable time for our Secretary. Thank you.

Membership subscriptions

Your membership subscription for 2022 is due on 1 January. The easiest way to pay is via standing order so thank you to those members who pay by this method. If you would like our bank details to set up a standing order for next year then please contact Jane.

Receipts and invoices for membership subscriptions can be sent to you via email so please contact Jane to request a copy. Our membership remains at £40 per annum for the 9th year running and along with registration fees, pays for our running costs. So please help our administration by paying promptly. Thank you.



White Park cattle emigrate to France - chapter 2

In November 2020 one of our members, Eric Bautsch, relocated lock, stock and barrel from the peak district of Derbyshire over the English Channel to Oradour-St-Genest, which is in Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in west-central France.

The first section of Eric's article appeared in our August newsletter. In this second instalment, Eric sets off to the Eurotunnel in order to meet the cattle in France. Over to Eric . . .

By the time we managed to set off from the farm in Derbyshire it was gone lunch time and we had an appointment to be at the Eurotunnel terminal for a 19:20 departure. I ended up driving my car through the night with our 4 dogs, and we arrived at our temporary home in France around 8am. The cattle arrived a few hours after us, at 1pm. I was pretty worried about them to be honest and expected the cattle to be in a bad humour after the

journey! In the event, my worries proved unfounded: the cattle just walked off the truck leisurely and started comfortably grazing the green grass. In the UK they had already been on silage for a month or more.

The vendor of the new farm had kindly agreed that we could put the cattle on the land despite the purchase not having gone through completely yet. We had plenty of fun with fences, which all looked great, but it turned out that the stakes were rotten in the ground; so, the cattle just looked at them and they fell over. Cue: frantic fencing activity. I also had to construct the cattle handling facilities as soon as we arrived.

The paperwork relating to the export of the cattle was straightforward; the vet in England confirmed in advance that all the cattle looked healthy, and we had to have a clear TB test no older than 30 days in place (not the customary 60 days for movements). The transporter had to log their route in advance with Animal Health. In France there are no nation-wide requirements for importing of cattle, but in the Haute-Vienne region you need undertake a "prophylaxie" within 60 days of arrival and must worm them. The cattle were TB tested yet again and each animal had blood samples taken which are then analysed for BVD, Johnes, Brucellosis, IBR and leukosis.

So, we were now all living in France and looking forward to the arrival of some calves . . .

The decline in local abattoirs

We have started to draw up a list of abattoirs which have the facilities to take horned cattle but have many gaps in the country. If you know of an abattoir to add to the list please contact [Jane at the office](#).

In June 2019 the Prince of Wales convened a roundtable on abattoirs. The recommendation from the meeting was to undertake research on the issue, which was undertaken by the Prince's Countryside Fund as part of their ambition to support thriving farming families. The research concluded there was a need to support a diverse abattoir sector – and that farmers should have access to a range of abattoirs, offering a wide range of services regardless of size. to support their farming ambitions The Prince's Countryside Fund hopes that this research will help to illuminate the reasons that smaller abattoirs require unique support, and how the disappearance of these businesses will negatively impact the rural economy, food sustainability, and the profitability of our nation's farming families.



David and Sue Graveston retire from farming and White Park Cattle Society membership

Many members will know David and Sue Graveston, who own the Ribblesdale prefix and who have been prolific producers of White Park bulls over the years. In 2021 David and Sue took the difficult decision to retire from farming at Parkhouse Farm near Clitheroe and in October they moved to a new home nearby.

David and Sue first joined the White Park Cattle Society in 2007

after their farm started a Higher Level Stewardship scheme and they needed a native cattle breed for conservation grazing. In 2012 David decided to become more involved in the governance of the Society and was voted on to Council as a Director, where he took a great interest in mentoring new members and supporting them develop their White Park herds. David and Sue also attended several AGM and Open Days from Dorset up to the Borders of Scotland.

Over the past few years David and Sue have made a name for themselves as producers of high-quality White Park bulls, breeding Pass Plus beasts such as Ribblesdale Admiral, Ribblesdale Muskateer and Ribblesdale Nigel. David was also a keen show man and had success in the ring with many White Park bulls, such as achieving Overall Champion bull at Worcester sale with Pantgwyn Victor.

Following the Graveston's retirement from farming in 2021 the Ribblesdale herd of White Park cattle was dispersed and many of the females moved over the county border from Lancashire to Yorkshire to start a new herd with a new member of the Society. David Graveston said "My heart found it hard to leave Parkhouse Farm which had been farmed by three

generations of my family, but my head told me it was the right decision for moving forwards."

Chair of the Society, Alistair Black said "The success of the Society and the development of our White Park breed depends very much on members like David and Sue Graveston, and we are grateful for their valuable contribution over the years".

We would like to wish David and Sue every happiness in their new home.

Farewell and thank you Amy

At our June 2021 Council meeting Amy Cope-Cadman let us know that she would be standing down as a director, due to pressure of work.

Amy runs Beaudesert Park Farm with her mother Mary and following the retirement of her father, Amy has now taken on more responsibility at home. The farm is located in Cannock Chase and is home to the Beaudesert herd of White Park cattle. Amy and Mary sell the beef direct to the public at several farmers' markets and also connect with children on the farm by hosting educational visits.

Amy, her husband Richard and son Elliot have attended many of our open days and we hope to continue to meet them at future events. We would like to thank Amy for her contribution to Council and wish her every success with her activities at Beaudesert Park Farm.

Tracking TB outbreaks

The Animal and Plant Health Agency has launched an online interactive mapping tool for ongoing and resolved TB breakdowns in England and Wales over the past 10 years. The site can be used to find out about the bovine TB situation in your local area, and when purchasing cattle. [Visit the site here.](#)

Cattle for sale

Remember to [visit our website](#) if you are looking for a new bull, some breeding females or young stock.

Harley Farms (South) in Wiltshire are selling several of their females and are prepared to consider selling any female which would be of interest to a member. The herd manager, Dorit Albertson, is a vet and regularly tests the herd which is in a health scheme. The herd is also organic and PFLA certified. Details of all of the cows are on our website and photos of individual cows are available from Jane.

If you know of someone who wants to start a new White Park herd then the Hoosherd is being dispersed and comprises Pass Plus bull Ribblesdale Muskateer (see below), several cows with his calves at foot and some of his heifers.



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