



WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LTD

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Secretary

Hello everyone

As we approach Christmas it is always a good time to review the year which is coming to a close. During 2023 the Society welcomed four new members and received several more enquiries from potential new members who are currently seeking cattle. We are seeing increased interest in our breed and the move towards regenerative farming and using native cattle breeds for conservation grazing in HLS schemes appear to be two of the reasons.

We will also say goodbye to three members at the end of this year who, for differing reasons, have dispersed of their herd of White Park cattle. We would like to thank them for their support and interest in our beautiful breed.

May we wish you all a peaceful festive season.

Best wishes, Jane

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

We can now confirm that our 2024 AGM and Open Day will be held on:

Saturday 22 June

The location will be Ditchley Park, in Enstone, Oxfordshire. Ditchley Park's membership is listed as M D Hamilton Farms Ltd. As well as visiting the Ditchley herd of White Park cattle we are also being treated to a tour of the house. Ditchley Park has a rich history as an idyllic retreat for royalty and power since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Further details and a booking form will be issued to all members in 2024. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the event.

James Woodward

We were sad to hear in October that long-standing member James Woodward had passed away following a long battle with declining health.

James lived in Derbyshire and owned the Nutbrook herd of White Park cattle, which at nearly seventy in number is one of our largest herds. The current herd sire is Broadecton Clayton, a Pass Plus bull who has also been used for semen collection. James also bred four registered breeding bulls under the Nutbrook prefix.

James' daughter Rosemary said that her father had derived great pleasure from his White Park cattle and was very proud of the herd which he had built up. So, it is good to know that James' two daughters will be taking over the management and development of the Nutbrook herd.

Membership subscriptions for 2024

During the year our Council members reviewed our fees and came to the difficult decision that it was time to increase our membership subscription. This is the first increase for eleven years.

In line with all businesses, the Society is facing increasing running costs. Our membership subscriptions are one of only two sources of income for us, the other being cattle processing fees. Council members decided not to increase our registration or purchase transfer fees, but the

Bull Inspection fee will be increased to £125 to cover the additional DNA test that we are now undertaking on dams of bulls.

The membership subscription for 2024 will be £50 and is due on 1 January.

If you pay your subscription by standing order, we would be grateful if you could amend your payment accordingly. We also accept cheques if this is your preferred method of payment.

Invoices will be sent to all members in December to remind you of the new membership rate.

Thank you for your understanding and support for this increase.



Farmers' Guardian highlights our breed during a momentous year for our society

On 8 December 2023 the White Park breed was highlighted in an article in the Farmers' Guardian, which visited the Blatherwycke Estate

in Northamptonshire. The estate is home to two herds of White Park cattle; the Blatherwycke herd and more recently, the Dynevor herd owed by Lawrence Alderson. Upon his retirement from active farming, Lawrence Alderson passed over the guardianship of his herd to the estate.

The article comes at the end of a momentous year for the society:

- Lawrence Alderson resigned as President following thirty-five years in post
- Alistair Black resigned as Chair following eighteen years in post
- Henry Rusch became our new Chair
- The society celebrated its 40th anniversary

And 2024 will be the 50th anniversary since the re-establishment of registrations and the production of our Herd Book, which was organised by Lawrence Alderson. We hope to organise further publicity about our breed and society anniversaries next year.



Could you bring on bull calves for possible inspection?

One of our members has raised a query with us, to say that they have three promising bull calves who they are unable to keep beyond nine months old. We are

sure that this is not the only member who does not have the time and land available to bring bull calves on for inspection at two years old.

This issue raises the question - how do we incubate promising bull calves and ensure that they are well handled on a daily basis to become well-mannered breeding bulls?

If you feel that you could help us retain promising bulls, please contact our Secretary Jane at the office.

Compensation for TB reactors

Unfortunately, many of our members are living in high risk bTB areas and losing cattle to the disease is a constant threat. But bTB can occur in any area of the country.

Defra pay compensation for bTB reactors, depending on the sex and age of the cattle. But there is a difference between the compensation paid for pedigree cattle and non-pedigree cattle. The difference can be up to £1137 per head (for a heifer over twenty months).

** It is therefore important that members register their female White Park cattle with us in order to receive a pedigree certificate **

Remember - if you register your calves within three months of their birth, the cost of registration is £25 per calf.

List of abattoirs which will take horned cattle

Finding an abattoir which will take horned cattle has started to become an issue for some of our members in certain areas of the country. Many small, family firms are closing down, and others are placing restrictions on the type of cattle which they are able to deal with.

Amy Quirk, a student studying agriculture at the the University of Kent, has recognised that breeders of horned cattle are having difficulties sourcing abattoirs and concentrated on the issue for her dissertation. She contacted all registered abattoirs in the UK to ask if they would take cattle with horns plus if they had restrictions on killing cattle over thirty months of old. The final list has been shared with cattle societies which support breeds with horns. If you would like to receive a copy of the list of abattoirs, please contact Jane at the office.

Animal health and welfare review now open to more farmers

Defra has announced that their annual health and welfare review of livestock is now open to non-BPS registered farmers, meaning more livestock keepers in England can now apply. Through the Review, farmers who keep cattle, sheep and pigs can get funding to pay for a vet to visit their farm and carry out a yearly review. You need to own a minimum of eleven cattle and have a single business identifier linked to a county parish holding number to apply for the grant. You will be paid £522 for the review.

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Our mailing address is:

whiteparks@aol.com

White Park Cattle Society Ltd

Archway Cottage

2 Church Street, Marton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9RL

Tel: 01926 632560

Registered in England No: 5999330

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