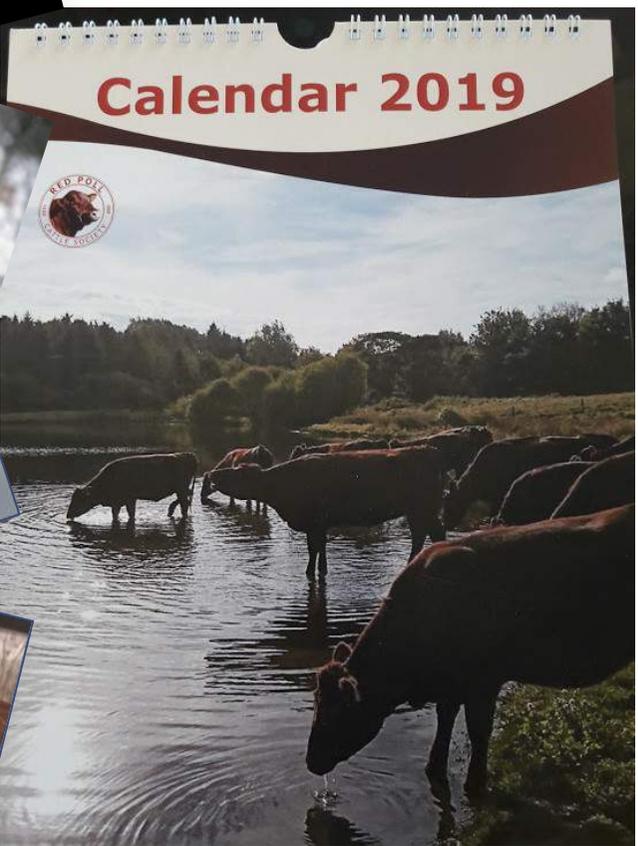




Newsletter No. 112



inter 2018



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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



1 Nabbott Road
Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 2SW

01245 600032
secretary@redpoll.co.uk
www.redpoll.org

Newsletter No. 112 Winter 2018

President: A. L. Barratt
President Elect: J. Butler
Chairman: J. R. Williams
Secretary: R. J. Bowler
Treasurer: Mrs T. J. Booker



Dual purpose Red Polls

Charity Registration No. 213132
Company Registration No. 27159

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Year Letter

The year letter for 2019 registrations is J

Registration Fees

Heifer in the Herd Book of year of birth £13.50

Heifer outside the Herd Book of year of birth £25

Bull £80 Transfer of ownership £10 Birth Notification £10

Please note that the Herd Book closes at the end of January for entries from the preceding year. When you sell a Red Poll, please return the pedigree certificate to the office. The certificate will be sent to the new owner on payment, by the buyer or seller, of the transfer fee.

Advertising in Red Poll News

As a member, you can take a full page advertisement for £25. The rate for non members is £50. Half pages are priced pro rata.

Copy dates; February 19th, June 19th, October 16th

For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office.

Steers are always wanted.

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2019

Registering:	£50
Associate:	£25
Overseas:	£30 in sterling
Life Registering Member:	£750
Life Associate Member:	£300
Life Overseas Member:	£500

Regional Field Officer Arrangements

The Society operates a system of Honorary Regional Field Officers, as it has become clear that it is very difficult for one individual to cover the whole country. The system is co-ordinated by our Secretary, Ray Bowler. A list of Regional Field Officers is given below with contact details:

Ray Bowler – 01245 600032 / 07906 761206 secretary@redpoll.co.uk

Area: South Suffolk, Essex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire.

Joy Broughton – 07961 428431 zulu623@gmail.com

Area: Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire

Denis Jenkins - 07876 748082 denis.jenkins@tesco.net

Area: Norfolk & North Suffolk.

John Williams - 07860 269044 jrw2@btinternet.com

Area: Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Wales and (with the help of Stephen Prescott) the Northern Counties

Simon Phelps – 07855 345329 simon-phelps@hotmail.co.uk

Area: Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall.

John Anderson - 07833 664121 borenichjohn@gmail.com

Area: Scotland.

If you wish to buy or sell cattle you should contact Ray Bowler on **01245 600032** or **secretary@redpoll.co.uk**. Ray will pass the details to the relevant Regional Field Officer and arrange for inclusion on the website if you so desire.

We hope that you will have the opportunity to meet your Regional Field Officer before too long.

RED POLL

Steers, heifers and young bulls
always wanted

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01953 717176

Council Nominations 2019

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a Council Nomination form. If you would like to be considered for election onto Council please complete and return to me by the closing date for nominations of 1st February 2019.

The Council would like to encourage new members of Council as it is your forum to have a say as to how the breed and Society is run and administered. The Council meets 4 times a year plus additional committee meetings as required. In the event of more than six nominations being received then a ballot will be carried out prior to the AGM which is held in April.

Many regards
Ray Bowler
Society Secretary

If you have anything published in a newspaper or magazine about you, your herd or what you do PLEASE let me know—as well as continuing to send me:

- ◆ articles
- ◆ points of interest
- ◆ news items
- ◆ amusing/interesting pictures
- ◆ regional tales
- ◆ handy tips or advice

My email address for your contributions for The Red Poll

Newsletter is
sally.g53@live.com

or you can phone 07780964978

Many thanks,
Sally

Secretary's Report—28th July 2018

There are 33 new members for election at this meeting, 31 last year, however it must be remembered that 24 of these are students at Writtle, Capel Manor, Easton/Otley and Shuttleworth Colleges. Therefore there are eight traditional members, seven last year. Six of these are registering, two associate and one junior. There are therefore 414 members – 388 at this meeting last year, however 60 are students so membership without students is 353, comprising of 263 registering or life registering, 77 associate with 13 others, comprising of overseas and juniors.

Since the last meeting I have sent out 22 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

Since the last meeting the majority of my time for the Society has been taken up with attending shows, along with the other normal day to day administration work. Shows attended being Beef Expo at Shrewsbury, The South Suffolk Show, Shropshire, where I was called in to judge at the last minute, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Three Counties, which was our National Show, Cheshire and Norfolk. It has been pleasing to catch up with many members at the shows together with getting a few new names which hopefully will result in new members and cattle sales in the future. As I have said on numerous occasions it is as important to keep contact with existing members as it is to get new ones. To this end I spent five days in and around the West Country visiting members down there, 15 in fact, it was an excellent few days. I went up to Scotland to inspect a bull for Billy Laird and to have a look around his farm. What a fascinating place that is, I'll do an article for the Newsletter about it. I attended a Grassroots workshop with

Terina in Coventry, I spent two days in Leiston with Sally putting all the Development Society data onto Grassroots. I have attended Breeding Committee meetings at Docking and Brogborough together with a Show and Sales meeting at Brogborough.

What a fantastic Field day we had at Euston Estate last Sunday. 65 members and guests had a fascinating tour around the whole estate looking at the wide and ranging enterprises the estate runs, together with the Grafton herd of Red Polls. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by all. I will have judged the Southern Area Herd Competition prior to this meeting.

Bull inspecting and registration since the last meeting. There have been 14, two x M0, four x M1 with the other eight awaiting results. The point scores for these bulls have averaged 171 points. I have carried out ten of the inspections, with Helen Arthan, Su Mahon, Terry Mancey and John Williams carrying out 1 each. The inspections I have carried out have been whilst I have been travelling around the country and have all been with agreement from John Williams. I have managed to get Gerrad Farmer back into the Society which has resulted in several late registrations with more to come once an older bull has been inspected. John and myself are trying to arrange a suitable convenient time to visit, Gerrad also has a younger bull he wants registering as well.

Semen sales have been buoyant with 122 straws being sold since the last meeting, of which 40 Lavenham Sir Galahad were to Charles Drake. Adrian Darby had 24 Pinpur Intercontinental straws for inseminating his heifers after synchronizing them as the young bull he purchased last year proved to be

Johne's Disease Risk Level Reminder - CHeCS

If you are looking to buy or sell stock it is important to know your own herd's Johne's disease risk level, as well as that of any cattle that you might add to your herd.

Level 1 – There have been at least three clear annual herd tests and there is a Johne's Disease herd health plan in place. This is the lowest level of risk

Level 2 – There has been at least one clear herd test but the herd does not yet qualify for Level 1 status. There is a Johne's disease herd health plan in place

Level 3 – Three per cent or less of the herd were identified as reactors at the most recent herd test. There is a Johne's disease herd health plan in place

Level 4 – More than three per cent of the herd were identified as reactors at the most recent herd test. There is a Johne's disease herd health plan in place

Level 5 – This includes herds without a health plan for Johne's disease, herds that not adhere to the mandatory elements of the health plan and herds that do not carry out the required testing. This is the highest level of risk

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT RULE ABOUT BUYING AND SELLING AND RISK STATUS!

It is important to remember that if an animal of a lower risk level status is added to your herd, if it is ever sold on from your holding it must be sold as its original risk level status (i.e. a Risk Level 3 animal added to a Risk Level 2 herd must remain as Risk Level 3 if sold again).

However, animals added from a higher Risk Level Status herd to a lower Risk Level Status herd take on the status of the herd that they are added to and must be sold as such (i.e. a Risk Level 1 animal added to a Risk Level 4 herd would then have to be sold as Risk Level 4 in the future).



incapable of serving animals, the vet thinking he had damaged himself when serving last year's heifers.

Cattle sales have been steady with a few sales going through. William Laird has purchased more cows and calves for the Prescott's, Helen Arthan has sold some heifers to a new member in Wales, as has Simon Temple to a new member in Co. Durham. Other deals are hopefully going through as well. Deals are going through which I don't know about until later in the year, in fact sometimes it's the following year when I find out.

2018 Herd Competition judging is well underway with the Midlands completed, the South and North being carried out just before the Council meeting and the East having been started. I have to say it seems to have been harder than ever to get members

Secretary's Report—18th October 2018

There is only one new member for election at this meeting, who is a registering member, seven at this meeting last year. There are 402 members – 381 at this meeting last year. There have been 13 resignation since the previous meeting due to me ringing around members with outstanding membership fees. This means that there have been 38 new members joining the Society in 2018, 43 in 2017, with 17 resignations. However it is important to remember that 24 of these are College students.

The Society membership is therefore made up of: 250 Registering and Registering Life, 79 Associate, 60 Students and 13 others. There were 15 outstanding memberships for 2018 for which Terina has sent out invoices on several occasions. I have tried to contact all of them. In addition to this there are still several members who haven't paid the increased

to enter which is a real shame. I changed the time I sent out the entry forms but this appeared to make little difference, it was only by constant email and phone call reminders that as many members have entered as we have. Any suggestions as to how we can resolve this would be most welcome.

Anthea and Jeff Daw have both carried out their Probationary Judge appointments, Anthea with Su Mahon at Suffolk and Jeff with John Butler at Norfolk. Both have had excellent feedback reports. They now need to attend the next Judges day, which is at Helen Arthan's on September 30th. This will be reported at the next Council meeting for their approval to become Society Judges.

As usual if there is anything else you would like me to report about then please let me know.

membership fees, they paid their old SO but no balance despite several reminders from Terina. I feel once these members have been chased again we may lose even more members.

Since the last meeting I have sent out ten information packs to persons enquiring about the Society. Semen sales have been very disappointing with no straws being sold since the last meeting, however there have been 309 for the year, 305 last year.

There have been nine bull inspections since the last meeting: four x M0, three x M1 with the other two awaiting results. The point scores for these bulls have averaged 176 points. I have carried out five of the inspections, with Su Mahon and Dick Smith carrying out one each. Two of the bulls were mature bulls owned by Gerrard Farmer for which myself and

Championships. The beautiful youngster Kirton Medallion was Champion Female and Kirton Delighter was adjudged to be the best bull of his breed. These outstanding animals were two of the three Kirton exhibits that won for Mr Stuart Paul the "Hensham" Bowl for the best group of three, ie a male and two females.

Red Poll

The introduction of milk yield standards as a condition of entry had no adverse effect on numbers and seemed to benefit uniformity. Certainly the Red Poll breed gave a splendid display and enhanced its increasing popularity. Last year reference was made to the good and shapely udders which graced the Red Poll cows at Lincoln, and it is gratifying to report that this advance was maintained at York, where the judges were well satisfied with the animals put before them.

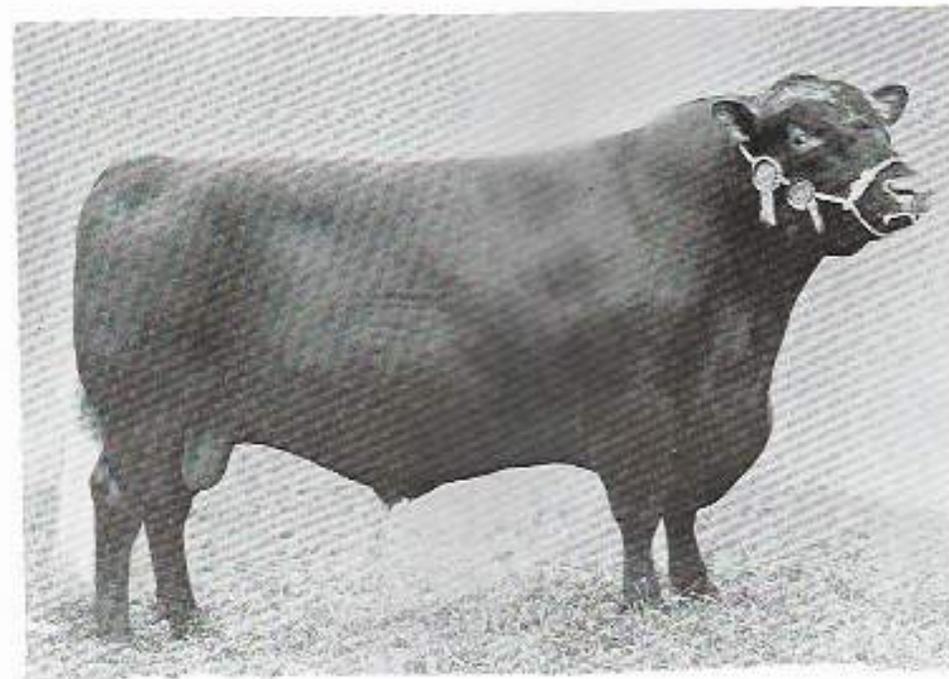


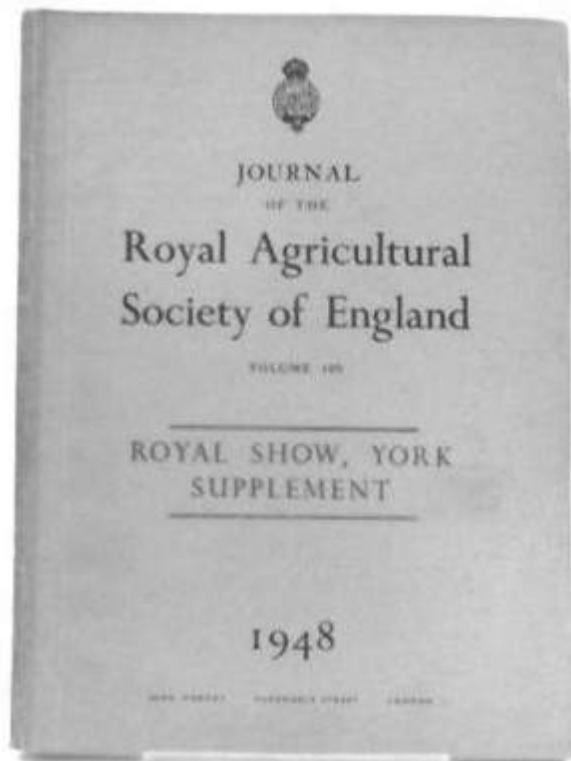
Fig. 14. "KIRTON DELIGHTER" 70113—Champion Red Poll Bull. Exhibited and bred by Mr Stuart Paul, Kirton, Ipswich

The Red Poll Archive

Excerpt from The Royal Show, York Supplement, 1948

In the old bull class two Kirton sires continued their rivalry, which was decided by Kirton Delighter being preferred to the younger Kirton Lucifer, that this time was relegated to fourth place. Kirton Delighter, now of great substance, was second 12 months previously at Lincoln, as also was Kirton Lucifer, but not in the same class as his herd companion. Sudbrook Stormer, that was third a year ago, was Reserve in his class at York. The very impressive and correct Wenhaston Churchill, whose future will be watched with much interest, had a comfortable victory in a small class of senior two-year-olds. He was Reserve male Champion, premier honours going to Kirton Delighter. The well-grown Kirton Knight Errant, one of rare promise, headed an excellent class for bulls born in the second half of the year 1946, thus emphasising his success at the recent Suffolk Show. Yearling bulls made a strong, useful, but not too level class, to the top of which came Kirton Favourite, who owed his superiority to style and symmetry. Two of the three Kirton bulls that secured first prizes were sired by Kirton Primate.

The dairy-like seven-year-old Grundisburgh Penguin, shown in excellent form, led some remarkably good animals in a splendid class for mature cows. Mistley Contrary 2nd was a clear winner in a not-too-good young cow class, the second prize in which went to Honest Peony, that won the Red Poll milking trials by giving six gallons of four per cent milk some seven months after calving. A splendid in-milk heifer class saw the sweet and nicely vesseled Kirton Medallion secure another win for her owner-breeder, whose exhibits added to their triumphs by taking both the Male and Female



John Williams jointly carried out the inspections as required by Society regulations. Weight for age gains for all bulls averaged 1.20kg/day. This makes a total of 25 registrations this year.

The bull with the highest score was Appleton Solstice, with 186 points. As is usual at this time of year, registrations are coming in steadily; so far this year 180 females, 212 last year. This is from 49 breeders, compared to 55 last year. It appears that members are leaving it later and later in the year to register their animals, I really have to start chasing from now on, it was a struggle last year to get as many registrations as we did, I feel it is going to be even harder this year.

Since the last meeting I haven't been out an about as much as usual what with holidays and the fact that I had an operation which required a few weeks down time. However I have judged the Southern Region Herd Competition, been to Doncaster and Nottingham areas to inspect bulls and visit new members, a day in North Norfolk with Tony Barratt inspecting bulls and visiting members, the Judges day in Cheshire where we also held a Show and Sale Committee, Southern Region Herd Competition presentation in Gillingham, Breeding, HR and Finance Committee meetings in Rugby, the Eastern Region Herd Competition presentation Euston Estate together with several visits to local members in Essex and South Suffolk.

I have to report on the Probationary Judges. Anthea and Jeff Daw have attended the required Standardisation days and attended shows in a Probationary capacity, so therefore this meeting needs to agree they have passed their Probationary period and

can be put onto the Society's Judges list.

Cattle sales continue to be steady with a few small deals being done, there is plenty of stock available, all of which are advertised on the website. Cattle have been sold from the Appleton herd to existing members and to potential new members. John Latham's Dodds herd has been sold to a potential new member in Shropshire, 16 heifers from the Underhills herd have been sold to a member in Shropshire. John Reading, in Wiltshire, is reducing his herd, he is selling all his cows and keeping his bulling heifers, these are hopefully going to a potential new member in Somerset.

Several batches of store animals have been sold through the markets recently with good prices gained at Melton and Colchester. Melton held their Rare and Native sale in September which was well supported by members with a top price of 1100gns being achieved for a cow and calf combination from Susan Tanner and John Davies. These were purchased by new member Ebony Prior of Worksop, who also purchased three more lots. Bindwell Ltd from Norfolk are dispersing their herd at Newark at the end of the month. This is due to a change in farming policy.

As I said this time last year if there is anything else that you would like me to report on in future reports then please let me know as I feel this report consists of all the same things, just with different statistics.

New Members for election:
Richard Munday, Camwell Hall,
Much Hadham, Herts, SG10 6BB.

Ray Bowler



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split into two main groups, cows and heifer calves and cows with bull calves. The herd contains some superb deep bodied cows and once again longevity of breeding. The young stock all looked well despite the grass shortage in the Summer. I also saw some very well fleshed steers, showing what good does they are. The stock bulls reflected once again the Herd's policy of improvement and where necessary culling if udders were not right.

The final herd was the Eastern Region winner the Countess of Euston and the Grafton Herd at Thetford. Another herd kept extensively on some beautiful parkland. Thanks to Andrew Blenkiron for showing me around and introducing me to Elvis – the largest Red Poll steer I have ever seen. The Grafton Herd is bred pure and supplies local butchers with beef. The Herd sires are bought in and you can see the improvement in the young stock and herd replacements coming through to what is a relatively young herd. I thought what a brave man Andrew is to calve outside in all weathers; but that is Red Polls. The on-going improvement in the herd results in some superb heifers replacing older cows where the udders are not quite so good and perhaps top lines and body depth needs improving.

Thank you to Ron, Jayne and David at Lagan Farms, Helen Arthan, Chorlton Lane Herd, Andrew and Janet Kirk, Pochin Herd and Andrew Blenkiron, Grafton Herd for their warm welcome, time and trouble showing their herds. I had to make a decision and after much rumination, that is thought rather than chewing the cud, I selected The Pochin Herd. A superb display of adult cattle and young stock looking exceptionally well and a great advert for the breed.

Ted Neal

Overall Champion—John Pochin's Pochin Herd
Large Herds—John Pochin's Pochin Herd
Small Herds—Helen Arthan's Chorlton Lane Herd
Bledisloe Salver winner—Joy Broughton's Nobodys Eclipse Reserve—Pinguis Duke



Nobodys Eclipse

National Herd Competition 2018 - Judge's Report and Result



Pochin Herd

I was greatly honoured to be asked to judge the Herd of the Year. I thought it would be a difficult task and proved to be such as every regional winner was truly deserving of the regional accolade and any one I would be proud to put forward as the winning herd. My term of appointment was to find a winner and so I did. For saying we had just come out of one of the hottest continual spells of hot weather the cattle I was shown clearly reflected why Red Polls thrive in all climates.

I started my travels in Gillingham at the Lagan Herd. This herd of some 50 breeding females was mainly pure Red Polls with some Red Poll sired crosses. Ron and his team were putting many of their females to an Angus to benefit from the premiums available. There were some very deep bodied females with excellent udders standing up well after having had eight or nine calves. Whilst many breed pure it was great to see the use of Red Poll females as a suckler dam giving that hybrid vigour to their calves. The crosses looked superb and show what the Red Poll can

do as a commercial dam and terminal sire. Thanks to Ron, Jayne and David for showing me round and I must confess despite their great instructions I did miss the M5 turn at Bath.

Next was up to Cheshire and Helen Arthan's Chorlton Lane Herd. This winner of the Northern Herds was the only small herd, of about 12 breeding females that I saw and once again some superb examples of the breed. I was impressed with her policy of Herd improvement and to see some excellent young stock coming through as replacements. Her old lady of the herd was over 14 and had produced 11 calves and still looked well. The udders were very good with well-placed teats. Helen is very discerning about the bulls she brings in and looks for traits that will continue to improve her herd.

Travelling down to Barkby in Leicestershire to see the Pochin herd winner of the Midlands area. Thanks to Andrew and Janet Kirk for driving we around to look at all of the stock. They were a picture to behold in the Park setting. The cows with calves were

News from Argentina

The secretary recently received an interesting email from Argentina along with some photographs, and we thought it would be of interest to the members.

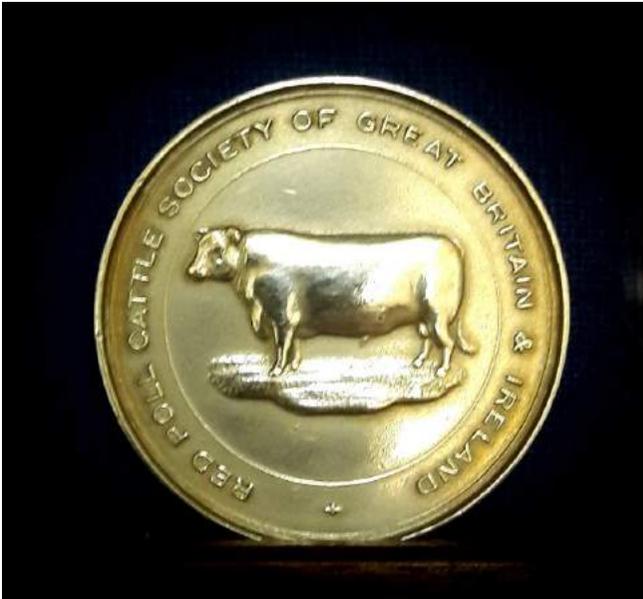
Hello,
Today I had the pleasure to take these photographs of some Red Poll cows, estimated to be the 10th generation of the ones that started the dairy industry in Estancia Tatay S.A. located in Carmen de Areco, Buenos Aires, Argentina 120 years ago. In 1900 the farm hand milked 40. Dairies, sent the milk by train to BsAs capital where it was bottled and sold to local population. Actually the farm is still in the dairy industry milking 1,572 holstein cows and producing 50.000 litres per day. Enjoy.

Marcos Snyder
Agronomist
Dairy consultant
www.dairylando.com



More info from Argentina

Here I'm attaching two more pictures of Red Poll in Argentina. The picture of actual cows living in Tatay, Buenos Aires farm, are descendants of Pearl the first Red Poll cow imported in 1895 by Argentinian Farmer called Samuel Hale to Tatay, in Carmen de Areco, Buenos Aires. Some years later the farm was milking 3000 Red Poll cows in 40 handmilked dairy units. In 1974 holstein cattle replaced the Red Poll.



Red Poll Annual Dinner 2018

61 members and friends gathered at the Hunter's Lodge Hotel in Crewe, on the 3rd November, 2018, where we had a wonderful dinner in the evening, eating the Langley Red Poll beef for the main course, the whole meal being excellent, as was the hotel. The staff were particularly helpful and pleasant which made the evening even more enjoyable.

The meal was followed by our President Elect John Butler proposing the Loyal Toast, the presentation of awards for the National Herd Competition, also the trophies won at the National Show the previous show season, by Tony Barratt, our Society President. This was followed by a huge raffle, with prizes being donated by members, and presented by Ann Barratt, our President's wife, Terina Booker, our Society Treasurer, who had organised this and the dinner. Tony then auctioned a four day break in Derbyshire in a self-catering cottage, donated by Carolyn Wilson and Graham Duncan.

It was, indeed, one of the best annual dinners we have had.

Sunday morning found us at the home of John and Helen Langley, who have the 'Oaklands' Herd at Bunbury, some half an hour drive from the hotel, to be welcomed with coffee, tea and Danish pastries. The Langleys moved there in 2012, and have never stopped working to improve their Oaklands farm, moving from having just a few Red Polls to having 110 animals on the 170 acres of land today. We saw the excellent set of buildings they had erected, and the really good handling area for cattle. Having lost two close neighbours in bull related incidents, they are very safety conscious. We saw first the cows with young calves at foot, running with Appleton Okovango. All the cattle we saw were in excellent condition. The next group we saw were the in-calf heifers and cows, with older calves at foot. The steers were the third group we saw, which had a daily liveweight gain of up to 1kg/day, this being produced from the excellent pasture. All the animals, without exception, were in tip top condition, especially after such a dry summer with not a poor animal amongst them.

The Langleys had, on average, one animal a week slaughtered and used as 'box beef', which they sold locally and also into London.

Members enjoyed a beef sandwich lunch, followed by cake, served by friends and family, particularly Audrey and Keith, Helen's parents, and Rob, who helps them on the farm. Tony Barratt expressed our thanks before we all dispersed, having thoroughly enjoyed an excellent visit and hospitality.

Yvonne Prescott



John Pochin receiving the award for the best herd of 2018 Herd Competition from President Tony Barratt.

**Nantwich Show
Results 2018
Judge: David Hunt**

Heifer born in 2017 (four forward)

- 1st Chorlton Lane Hokey Cokey—Helen Arthan
- 2nd Pinguis Emily 19th—John Williams
- 3rd Moreton Baby Huia—Helen and Terry Mancey
- 4th Pear Tree Kimberley—The Bickerton Family

Heifer born in 2016 (two forward)

- 1st Pear Tree Bunny—The Bickerton Family
- 2nd Pinguis Emily 18th—John Williams

Cow (five forward)

- 1st Moreton Baby Drury—Helen and Terry Mancey
- 2nd Copperidge Alexa—John Williams
- 3rd Chorlton Lane Fanilla—Helen Arthan
- 4th Pinguis Emily 15th—John Williams
- 5th Pear Tree Bella—The Bickerton Family

Bull (two forward)

- 1st Pinguis Frederick—John Williams
- 2nd Nobodys Jedi—Helen Arthan

Champion Female

Moreton Baby Drury

Reserve Female

Copperidge Alexa

Champion Male

Pinguis Frederick

Reserve Male

Nobodys Jedi

Overall Champion

Pinguis Frederick

Reserve

Moreton Baby Drury

Report on Nantwich Show

It was a huge pleasure to be asked to judge at the Nantwich Show on 25th July. It was the first time I had attended the show in any capacity and both Sally and I were afforded a very warm welcome and were very well looked after all day.

The Show itself was very agriculturally based and it was very nice to see the show make use of a lot of Young Farmer members as both stewards and commentators. Generally the cattle entries were slightly down due to the date of the show clashing this year with The Royal Welsh, however Red Polls were very well represented and possibly had the most entries of any breed.

The first class, Heifer born in 2017, had four animals forward. All four heifers were a joy to judge, all a credit to the breed. I placed Helen Arthan's Chorlton Lane Hokey Cokey first, she caught my eye as she walked around the ring and had real style and presence. Helen's heifer was very well grown, had a very good tail head and had the potential to make a very good cow.

In second place was John Williams' Pinguis Emily 19th, another lovely heifer which I am sure will go on to make a lovely breeding animal again well grown and just shaded Terry Mancey's heifer. Alan Bickerton had a sweet heifer but it had age against it, but will grow on and I am sure will be in the money next year.

There were only two heifers forward in the maiden or in calf class [born in 2016]. Again two very good examples of the Red Poll breed. I placed Alan Bickerton's Pear Tree Maggie May just ahead of John Williams' Pinguis Emily 18th—not a lot between the two animals but I felt Alan's heifer just in a slightly better breeding condition.

In the Cow class there were five very nice cows forward. This class certainly concentrated my attention and took some time to judge. Terry Mancey had an exceptional cow with an exceptional udder a real example of a dual purpose cow, but only just ahead of John Williams' Copperridge Alexa with Helen Athan's Chorlton Lane Fanilla a close third.

There were only two bulls forward, John Williams' Pinguis Frederick, as well as being a prime bull, had age as an advantage over Helen Arthan's entry.

I placed Terry Mancey's cow as Female champion and John Williams' bull as male and overall champion.

Overall a very good show of cattle and many thanks to the Nantwich Show for their kind hospitality.

David Hunt

Eastern Herd Competition Results 2018

Large herd

1. Grafton Herd
2. Bulcamp Herd
3. Lavenham Brook Herd
3. Ladlers Herd

Small herd

1. Heathgate Herd
2. Hepworth Herd
3. Seahawk Herd
3. Threadling Herd

Overall winner: The Grafton Herd, Euston Estates

Youngstock

1. Grafton Herd
2. Heathgate Herd
3. Hepworth Herd

Stock bull

1. Bridgham Lancelot—Marshland Herd
2. Pochin Fernie-James—Grafton Herd
2. Kirton Retailer—Canfield Bury Herd
3. Hepworth Ozier—Hepworth Herd

Senior cow

1. Hepworth Tansy—Richard Brookes
2. Grafton Gretchen—Euston Estates
3. Thornage Maybel—Thornage Hall

Junior Cow

1. Thornage Rhonda—Thornage Hall
2. Hepworth Wisteria—Richard Brookes
3. Canfield Bury Bridget—Johnathan Clarke
3. Bulcamp Junia—Simon Roberts

2016 Heifer

1. Heathgate Grainne—Denis Jenkins
2. Grafton Myleene—Euston Estates
3. Thornage Rosetta—Thornage Hall
3. Ladlers Gorgeous—James Rea

Progeny Group

1. Bridgham Lancelot “B” Heathgate Herd
2. Pochin Fernie James “A” Hepworth Herd
3. Seahawk Courageous Seahawk Herd

3 Rel Females

1. Denis Jenkins—Hinwick Zoom, Heathgate Eliza and Freda
2. Richard Brookes—Hepworth Tansy, Japonica and Wallflower
2. Lady Getty—Lavenham Kirstie and Tuppence and Lavenham Brook Primrose
3. James Rea—Ladlers Cameo, Gorgeous and Digitalis
3. Simon Roberts—Bulcamp Flaninia, Ishtar and Mari

Purebred Steer

1. Lavenham Brook Herd—No 858
2. Capel Manor Herd—No 14
3. Seahawk Herd—No 53
3. Heathgate Herd—Bert

Xbred Steer

1. Seahawk Herd—No 54

Purebred Suckling Calf

1. Grafton No 340—Euston Estates
2. Heathgate No 55—Denis Jenkins
3. Hepworth Betony—Richard Brookes
3. Lavenham Brook Madeline—Lady Getty

Xbred Suckling Calf

1. Seahawk No 67—Ed Turner and Sally Grimwood
2. Heathgate No 65—Denis Jenkins

Judges Standardisation Day 2018/Northern Area Herd Competition Presentation

On the 30th September, by kind invitation of Helen Arthan, Chorlton, Malpas, Cheshire, 16 of our Society judges met for our Annual Standardisation day. To remain on the Society Judges Panel, Judges must attend a least one of these events every three years, although it is recommended that panel members try to attend every event.

The event is designed so that all judges are looking for basically the same things when in the show ring. There will always be individual judges preferences, which is to be encouraged, as long as the main breed points are adhered to.

On this occasion one of the main focuses was in giving reasons for your placings. These need to be in a professional manor, negative comments should be avoided, only highlight the good points of an animal. It was also stated that more and more shows required reasons to be given for your placings over the microphone. This is a very important aspect of the judge's role. Jeff Daw gave a presentation on how this should be carried out. This resulted in much discussion which was pleasing to hear.

Another area concentrated on was the need for the judge to manage their ring. Stewards nowadays seem to be not as experienced as in the past, they need to be told what you want and how you want the cattle paraded, also be consistent in how you line the cattle up, as if you aren't this can be confusing to everyone.

Report writing was stated as important as we needed detailed reports for the Newsletter.

We then went to the local village hall for an excellent lunch very kindly provided by Helen, much appreciated thank you.

As Helen had won the Northern Area Herd

Competition the afternoon was given over to the presentation of certificates and trophies. For this we were joined by 20 members and friends from the region. Joy Broughton, judge for the competition, presented the awards. We then had a farm walk around the Chorlton Lane Herd.

After returning to the village hall for afternoon tea we all said our goodbyes.

Thank you to Helen and her team for hosting and congratulations to her for winning the competition.

Ray Bowler



no problem with the bull, as to be expected from the Woldsman herd. Left there at 5.00pm arriving home in Chelmsford just after 10.00pm.

Friday 22nd – Visiting & assessing three Writtle Apprentices on Foulness Island, Billericay and Roxwell.

Saturday 23rd – Spent the day in the office catching up on everything.

Sunday 24th – Big family picnic in Kew Gardens, London. 26 of us, coming from Dublin, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Worthing, Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard, London as well as here in Chelmsford. Great day, very hot but good to catch up with everyone again. Arrived home at 7.30pm.

Monday 25th – Office day including preparing for Norfolk Show.

Tuesday 26th – Teaching at Writtle until 4.00pm then driving to Norwich to set up Norfolk show stand. Stayed overnight in local Travelodge, arrived there at 9.00pm

Wednesday 27th – Left for Norfolk show at 7.30am.

Normal show stand duties. Judge John Butler found his Champion in Hopeham Fauzie owned and show by Sarah and Gerald Barnes. Another very successful Inter-College showing competition with Molly Bampton of Shuttleworth College coming out as Champion. Back into the Travelodge by 7.00pm.

Thursday 28th – Same as the previous day at the Norfolk Show. Left the show at 5.00pm arriving home in Chelmsford about 7.30pm.

Friday 29th – Visiting & assessing four Writtle Apprentices in Thorpe-le-Soken, Clacton-on-Sea, Mersea Island and Latchingdon.

Saturday 30th – Office in the morning. Attending Susanne's art exhibition in the afternoon.

Sunday 1st July – Judging Any Other Cattle Breeds at the Cranley Show, Surrey. Left home at 7.00am.

Nice little one day show, not many cattle present but made a very nice Gloucester Cow Champion.

Got home about 6.00pm

Monday 2nd July – Caught the coach at 10.00am for a two week holiday touring Scotland and the Shetland Isles. Hurrah a break at last.

I'm not complaining at all as some of it is self-inflicted but now that it's written down it's quite unbelievable what I did during this period and the distances I travelled.

I hope this shows that when I'm not in the office I'm on Society business—most of the time!



Hopeham Fauzie—Norfolk and Suffolk Champion

*Ray Bowler
Society Secretary*

don't realise what the business is all about, so these days are vital to impart information and knowledge. I arrived home about 8.30pm, oh the joys of the M3 and M25.

Monday 11th – Office day, lots to catch up on having been away for nearly a week.

Tuesday 12th – Teaching at Writtle all day.

Wednesday 13th – Visiting and assessing four apprentices in Bardfield, Yeldham, Nuthampstead and Saffron Walden. Doing today as had been away the previous Friday and would be away this coming one as well.

Thursday 14th – Office in the morning. Left for Three Counties Show, Malvern at 1.00pm. Arrived at Showground at 6.00pm. Set up stand etc. Staying with friends in Worcester overnight, arrived about 9.00pm.

Friday 15th – Left friends at 7.00am. Stand duty at Three Counties Show all day. On the way back to theirs for the night called into inspect a young bull at Adrian Darby's Kemerton herd just outside Tewkesbury. Excellent young bull Kemerton Kilkenny. Arrived back at friends at 8.00pm.

Saturday 16th – Left Worcester at 7.00am for the show. This is our National Show this year. Su Mahon judged as Rosemary Philipson-Stow had been unable to fulfil the judging duties due to ill-health. An excellent turnout of cattle saw John Williams' bull Pinguis Frederick being made Champion. A very good day with many members visiting. Back in Worcester by 8.00pm.

Sunday 17th – Left Worcester at 7.00am again for another day at the show.

Rare Breeds today which saw Judge Simon Phelps put the same animal as Champion, Pinguis Frederick. Packed up stand and back at friends by 7.00pm.

Monday 18th – Left friends after breakfast and drove to new member Martyn Davis who farms just outside Wrexham in North Wales. Martyn had recently purchased some bulling heifers from Helen Arthan. The cattle looked well on the hillside meadow above the farm. The aim is to AI them and form a small suckler herd to co-graze the land with their sheep.

I then drove to Mickle Trafford to catch up with Huw Rowland and his Plemondestowe herd. I have reported on this herd before so won't go into detail but it is a few years since I had been so it was good to catch up. I then drove to Tabley, Nr. Knutsford to set up for the Cheshire Show the following day. After setting up I left at 8.00pm to stay the night with my cousin in Mobberley, a village about 10miles away.

Tuesday 19th – Left Mobberley at 7.30am to get into the showground by 8.30am as although not far this is a notorious show to get into on show days. Day on stand duty but I did end up showing cattle for Helen Arthan and Pat McLaughlin. Viv Caust, Judge, found his Champion in Pear Tree Ruby an in-calf heifer owned and shown by the Bickerton Family. Returned to Mobberley by 7.00pm.

Wednesday 20th – At the showground by 8.30am for another day of stand duty. Packed up and left show by 5.00pm to drive to my brother's for the night at his smallholding just outside Halifax, West Yorkshire. Arrived about 7.30pm.

Thursday 21st – Spent the morning with brother, left there at 1.00pm to go to the Prescotts, Lund, East Yorkshire to inspect a bull they had sold. There was

Herd Competition Midlands Region – Results 2018

Judge: John Butler

Large Herd

John Pochin—Pochin
Martin Holdings—Lawford
Alan Hewson—Ironstone
Peter Bowman—Everdon

Small Herd

Virginia and Richard Dawes—
Hinwick
Joy Broughton—Nobodys
The Hunt Family—Watergate

Overall Champion

John Pochin —Pochin Herd

Youngstock

Peter Bowman—Everdon
Joy Broughton—Nobodys
Shuttleworth College—Shuttleworth

Registered Stock Bull

Nobodys Grand Duke —John Pochin
Creting Zeus—Joy Broughton
Fellrigg Danny—The Hunt Family

Senior Cow

Pochin Foxtan—John Pochin
Hinwick Wizard—Virginia and
Richard Dawes
Nobodys Ecstasy—Joy Broughton

Junior Cow

Pochin Kilworth—John Pochin
Hinwick Clementine—Virginia and
Richard Dawes
Lawford Diana—Martin Holdings

2016 born Heifer

Pochin Muckleton—John Pochin
Hollingmarsh Gail—Martin and
Caroline Kellner
Watergate Impulse—The Hunt
Family

Progeny Group

Canute Orange Bombadier—Peter
Bowman, Everdon
Nobodys Orange Chilli—The Hunt
Family, Watergate
Creting Zeus—Joy Broughton,
Nobody

Three Related Females

Nobodys'—Nobodys Freya, Illora
and Kelpie
Hinwick—Hinwick Cowslip,
Foxglove and Giselle
Watergate—Watergate Amber,
Impulse and Impala

Purebred Steer

Everdon No 46
Pochin No 403
Hollingmarsh Gavin

Cross bred Steer

Lawford Blonde X No 860
Everdon RP X Holstein No 43
(Jumbo)
Lawford Blonde X No 903

Purebred Suckling Calf

Pochin No 474
Hinwick No 193
Hollingmarsh Ilo

Crossbred Suckling Calf

Lawford No 736
Lawford No 734
Hollingmarsh Isaac

Purebred Dairy Cow

Ironstone Myra 4th
Victor Lucy 57th

Cross bred Dairy Cow

Victor Katie 26th
Ironstone Tiger

Herd Competition 2018- Southern Region Report

First of all I would like to thank everyone for taking part in the competition, it is an honour and privilege to look around the herds, and to see a wide range of management conditions that the cattle are being reared and managed in. I would like to thank everyone for their hospitality whilst visiting and also your enthusiasm for the breed.

There were three large and seven small herds to visit over the four days of judging. I'll not go thorough each herd independently but identify winning herds and animals as appropriate.

In the Large Herd category I found my winning herd in Lagan Farms' Lagan herd. Owned by Ron Clarke and managed by Dave Stotford and Jayne Mainstone. This herd comprises approximately 70 Red Poll cows together with another 40 head of British White or Red Poll x British White cows. The herd is spring calving with all cows housed in the winter and then turned out once calved in April/May. Bull calves are castrated and sold as finished steers through the farm shop or increasingly to local butchers' shops. Heifers are reared either as replacements or for sale as breeding animals. An increasing number of cows are being mated with Angus bulls to produce a more commercial animal for selling as weaned calves in the local store sales. This year 40 cows will be bred pure to new herd sire Ferndale Eggore, recently purchased from David and Michelle Wootton. During the summer the cattle graze extensively in their mating groups. The cattle are of

an overall type, with good deep bodies, excellent udders, walking on sound legs and feet and with a uniform rich red colour. The herd is passionately managed with attention to detail in all aspects of their management.

In second place I placed the East Knoyle herd of Caddy and Reading Ltd. This herd of 26 cows is a really impressive herd of large framed, deep red cattle with excellent udders and very uniform well grown calves. Spring calving the cattle graze in summer and are housed in the winter. The herd is organic with the steers finding a very good trade at the local livestock organic store market, selling as 15/18 months of age. Due to the number of cattle, bulling heifers will be sold this year at the same market. Herd sire is Appleton King Edward who is leaving some excellent animals, in fact I awarded the Youngstock prize to this herd as both years offspring are, as a group first class animals, he is looking for a new home in the autumn. In third place I placed the Cools herd of Quentin and Maggie Edwards. Another impressive herd consisting 47 cows, reared organically they graze extensively in the summer, are housed in the winter and fed haylage. The cows calve in two groups, spring and autumn to provide a constant supply of beef for the Farmers Markets and internet sales to which the cattle are marketed. Of late heifers have been kept to increase numbers. The only reason I have to award them third is that I don't feel the herd has a "stamp", they are good animals but are of a mixed type.

Devon, Longhorn, Highland, Belted Galloways and Riggitt Galloways. Some are bred pure but the majority are put to Charolais and Limousin bulls. Last year they were in Frome Market, they buy a lot of rearing calves there, and saw a pen of yearling Red Poll heifers from John Reading for sale. They liked the look of them and bought them. Since then they bought Richard Glanville's cattle. Up to now they are very pleased with the cattle and say they are fitting into their extensive system well. I have to say I have seen cattle in picturesque places in this job but this was something else, 350 cows and calves on 1000 acres on the top of Exmoor in beautiful sunshine, it doesn't come much better. Mark said he agreed but you want to be up there when it's raining stair rods, and the wind is blowing a hooley, yes it would be different scenario wouldn't it. It will be interesting to see how they progress with the cattle.



I then drove to another new member, Celia Curtis, just outside Sturminster Newton. Celia and her husband have recently ceased dairy production and are in the process of setting up a sucker herd. They have decided to use Red Poll X Friesian as the basis for the herd. They have kept several cows which weren't quite fit for sale and have inseminated them with Red Poll semen. The resulting heifers will form the basis of the suckler herd. This is a long term project at the start of the process. Once more it will be interesting to see how this progresses.

I then went to visit Lagan Farms in Gillingham. Owner Ron Clarke and Herd Manager Dave Stotford showed me around. I have visited here on several occasions and have written reports before so I won't do it again but this is an excellent herd of Red Poll, British White and some crosses between the two. The majority of the cattle are pedigree run on very commercial grounds. It was good to see the new bull that had been purchased earlier in the week, I hadn't seen him before, I'm sure he will make a valuable contribution to the herd.

Leaving there I went to stay the night with Quentin and Maggie Edwards in East Knoyle.

Sunday 10th – This morning I went around the Cools herd of Quentin and Maggie Edwards. Once more I have been here on numerous occasions and have reported before. One of the reasons for visiting was to inspect their young bull Cools Fleance. He passed inspection and will be used this year on heifers which aren't related to him. The herd is managed organically, the cattle being managed on a totally forage based diet. This works well on this productive grassland farm. Steers are finished and sold as beef at local Farmers Markets, on the internet or by farm gate sales. This Sunday just happened to be Open Farm Sunday so I stayed until mid-afternoon assisting in showing the visitors around the farm and cattle in particular. These events are excellent to get the public introduced to the farming world, so many

They are going to use AI for this year. They have kept a couple of this year's bull calves entire in the hope that they will turn into good bulls. David and Michelle rear several Shorthorn bulls each year so are well versed in rearing young bulls, it will be interesting to see how the calves develop during the next couple of years.

I then drove to Chulmleigh in North Devon where I had arranged to stay for a couple of nights with Liz and Malcolm Burbridge. Last year they moved there from Lambourne End in Essex and took their herd of Red Polls with them. I arrived there about 9.00pm.

Friday 8th - After breakfast we looked around their herd which consists of nine cows plus last year's youngstock. Due to the move the cows weren't back in calf as previously they had hired a bull from Richard Brookes. I told them about the young bull that I had seen a Viv's and that he would suit them down to the ground. I rang up Viv and they agreed to purchase the young bull, Levalsa Jacky's Boy.



Levalsa Jacky's Boy

The cattle looked well, in fact possibly a little too fit but to be expected as they weren't in-calf and there was an abundance of grass. After lunch I went to see Nicola Seaton and Tom White in East Beere. They no longer have cattle as are concentrating on their equine enterprise but in the past were breeders of excellent cattle. There are many cattle around carrying the East Beere prefix or are offspring of these cattle. It was nice to catch up with them again.

I then called in to see Tony Chadwick just outside Exeter. He has been using a Hereford bull on his Red Poll cows for several years now as the youngstock sell better in Exeter Market. He has been hit of late with bTB which is causing problems as he can't get free for it, each test comes up with another reactor which is depressing. I then went back to Liz and Malcolm's for the night.

Saturday 9th - Left after breakfast to go to new member James Taylor who farms with his family just outside Minehead in North Devon. They farm about

2,500 acres of Exmoor and what a place it was to see. I was shown around by his brother Mark, we went places in the Landrover that I wouldn't believe a vehicle could go! The farm have about 350 native breed suckler cows and 750 North Country mule ewes. The cows are a real mixture made up of Shorthorn, British White, Blue Albion,



James Taylor's Herd

We were a few herds short in the large herds competition which was a little disappointing.

I found the small herds category harder to judge, seven very good herds with not a bad animal amongst them. However in the end the decision was:

Winning herd, The Wellshead Herd of Lord Huntington, managed by Byran Coventry. The herd comprises 14 breeding cows, spring calving. They graze the Stewardship land on the Estate. What a bunch of cattle they are, very even in size, conformation and overall quality. A true herd in every sense of the word with no outstanding individuals but all oozing quality. Their management is of the highest order with careful selection of herd sires to the fore. Current herd sire is Appleton Barratt who will be looking for a new home this autumn. Steers are sold as stores with surplus heifers retained or sold for breeding.

In second place I placed the Ruscombe herd of Rebecca Charley. This herd has won the competition several times over the past few years but this time I just felt the winners had the edge. Comprising 11 cows with associated youngstock, this is a herd of well grown, good conformation cattle grazing a variety of sites in the local area. Heifers are reared for sale as breeding stock or go for meat as Rebecca has a very successful market for beef sold to local people in boxes.

I found third place very difficult to choose between the newly formed Wheatfield herd of Anthea and Jeff Daw and the fairly recently formed

Misty herd of David and Michelle Wootton. Anthea and Jeff have purchased some excellent animals, the herd consists of four purchased cows, and have bred some excellent youngstock but I just felt it was too soon for them to have a herd of their own breeding winning the major prizes. However I'm sure it will come in the future. Anthea and Jeff live in Wales, the cattle being housed in Gloucestershire under the management of Alan Trimbell. David and Michelle live and farm on Dartmoor, what a fantastic setting to work and live in but it is hard country to farm; however what an excellent job they make of it. The herd consists of six Red Poll cows together with some 30 other cows, mainly being Beef Shorthorn. When I visited the cattle looked first class despite the lack of grass, they certainly do well in this environment. Cows calve in the spring with the cows being housed in the winter but youngstock have to be out-wintered. I saw some impressive Red Poll sired cross bred calves out of Blue cross cows.

Other herds in the Small Herds category were: The Abbeyvale herd of Roger Thomas, the Boames herd of David Tomkins and the Mendip herd of Susan Tanner and John Davies. As stated earlier all the cattle from all herds were a credit to everyone, thank you for entering and giving me the opportunity to view your herds. The southern region is very big and covers everywhere from Berkshire to Cornwall to South Wales and Gloucestershire so to that end I travelled just shy of 1400 miles, a long but fascinating journey going

through beautiful countryside to view great cattle and meet enthusiastic breeders who are proud to show me their cattle.

The Overall herd prize was an even more difficult decision. However in the end I went for the Lagan herd due mainly to the uniformity of the cattle and the overall professionalism of their management. I was particularly pleased to see the use of the breed as a maternal animal producing cross bred cattle for the commercial market but keeping the pure bred cow to breed replacements.

I'm just going to highlight a few of the individual classes.

Stock Bull.

First place I awarded to Woldsman Brigadier. This seven year old bull was seen in the Abbeyvale herd. He won last year as well, what an outstanding example of the breed, he just stood out with his masculinity, his presence, his character and his overall excellent conformation. He is for sale as this is the last year he can be used in the Abbeyvale herd, he will make an excellent senior herd sire for someone, well worth the journey to South Wales to view him.

Second place I gave to the seven year old Appleton Barratt in the Wellshead herd. Another bull with excellent conformation, once more another bull for sale due to his daughters coming into the herd, and as before he will make a first class addition to another herd for a few more years.

Third place I gave to Cools Ferdinand in the Cools herd. At four years old he has completed his first herd duties and is now another bull looking for pastures new. He's a very impressive

bull, with length, excellent topline and rump.

Senior Cow.

First place I gave to the seventh calver Lagan Olwyn. This 10 year old Beasthorpe Hero daughter is everything that a senior cow should be. Deep bodied, excellent topline, walking on good legs and feet, with a well attached udder and in ideal condition she is what we should all be working towards. She had calved the day before I visited so was being a little protective to her calf but what a cow.

Second place was awarded to the Wheatfield Cherokee sired sixth calver Cools Trixie. Once more an outstanding cow just beaten by the overall quality of the winner.

Third place I gave to sixth calver Wellshead Bess. Her sire is New Delight Thor. Once more a very impressive cow, freshly calved she was carrying a little too much condition for me but what a cow.

Other senior cows of mention were: Ruscombe Woodsia and Abbeyvale Dewberry

Junior Cow.

First place was awarded to Mendip Chocolate Box. This third calving Levalsa Fred daughter, whose dam was pregnant with her when Susan and John purchased her from Nicola Seaton's East Beere herd, has an impressive show record within the southern area shows. She is an excellent example of the breed with no faults, perhaps her coat colour could be a bit darker but it must be a pleasure to own such a cow.

Second place I awarded to the Onenfawr Prince daughter Abbeyvale

the edge of the moors of about 50 acres. He has a herd of 20 cross-bred suckler cows plus youngstock. He decided last year to have a few Red Polls as he too was worried about the loss of milk in his continental cross cows and the costs associated with feeding their calves. He had bought three bulling heifers from Rosemary Philipson-Stow and had inseminated them. They were due to calve in the next few weeks. The cattle looked well in what was a very harsh environment with very little grass due to the wet weather, however there were spectacular views across the coast, not appreciated by the cattle though. Stayed in the hotel again.



Lional Mann's Herd

Thursday 7th – Dropped Susanne off at her friend's at 8.00am before I visited the Cornwall Show in Wadebridge. I had never been but had been told what an excellent show it was. I have to say it was extremely large but to be honest much like any other county show but I can now say I've been. Worst thing was getting into the place, queued up for nearly two hours, I shan't be rushing back again. I left the show at 3.00pm to drive to Bovey Tracey in Devon to visit David and Michelle Wootton. They have a Council Farm of about 150 acres on Dartmoor. What a place to get to but wow what stock they have. They have a herd of about 30 suckler cows plus youngstock and 100 ewes and a lot of poultry running around. In the main the cattle are Beef Shorthorn but for the past three years they have had a few Red Polls.



The Wootton's Herd

These were purchased from Clive Wills when he sold up and also a few from Viv when he reduced his numbers last year. The Red Poll herd now consists of eight cows plus calves and two years' worth of youngstock. The cattle look really well. At the time of visiting there was abundant grass and the cattle were thriving. The day before, Ron Clarke of Lagan Farms, had been down to purchase their bull Ferndale Eggore as he could no longer be used on the cattle due to the heifers entering the herd.



Wootton's Shorthorn

calves accordingly. Billy is concerned about the lack of milk and calving issues that these cows are having hence the move towards the Red Polls. He now has over 60 cows. He is mating the majority of them with Belgium Blue bulls, the Red Poll bull being used on a few to produce Red Poll replacements. The first crop of Blue cross calves were about three weeks old and I have to say looked very impressive calves, all black with a touch of grey roan in some of them. All male calves are kept entire and sold as bull beef, heifers being either kept as replacements or finished for beef. The Blonde cattle are mainly pure bred and are kept to produce high quality breeding bulls which find a ready market to pedigree and commercial breeders alike. Quite a lot of showing is also carried out. Billy showed me his team for the forthcoming Royal Highland Show, they were certainly impressive cattle. He also showed me his recently purchased Blue bull, what a beast he is, certainly a far cry from the Red Polls. It will be interesting to see how things develop in the future. They are tenants of about 600 acres of the Wemyss Estate, mainly grassland but also about 200 acres of arable. After a meal in the local restaurant I went to the local Station Hotel in preparation for my early Monday morning return back to Chelmsford.



Belgian Blue Bull

Monday 4th – I caught the 6.00am train from Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh then the 7.50am train to Euston, eventually getting home at 3.00pm.

Tuesday 5th – The External Verifier was at Writtle today so spent the day dealing with him and teaching as required. Leaving college at 4.00pm Susanne and I then set off for Cornwall for a tour of members in the West Country. Susanne's oldest school friend lives in St Austell so she was going to stay a few days with her whilst I came back visiting members over the next few days, Susanne would come back on the following Tuesday on the train. We arrived in St Austell at 10.00pm, staying the night in a hotel. Long drive after a tiring day at the College but there you go.

Wednesday 6th – This morning we visited Viv and Audrey Caust who have a smallholding just outside St Austell. Viv has been a staunch member of the Society for nearly 60 years, serving on Council and as the Society's representative in the West Country. Nowadays he only has one old cow but she had produced a very nice bull calf last year and Viv wondered if it would pass inspection and if anyone would be interested in purchasing him. I said he was definitely worth inspecting but I wouldn't register him until we found a buyer as it would be an unnecessary expense if he had to go for beef. I therefore inspected the bull, weighed him and took his tail hair sample to hold on file if required.

After a couple of hours there we left to go to Falmouth where I visited a new member Lionel Mann. I dropped Susanne off in Falmouth so she could have a look around the art galleries and shops. Lionel has a smallholding on

Gentian. Once more a very impressive cow with no faults just beaten by an outstanding animal. Third was the Lavenham Sir Tristian sired Misty Firefly. Having just calved her second calf she looked a picture, not the largest cow but very well constructed with excellent balance and character. Also worthy of mention are: Ruscombe Candytuft, Cools Panto and Wellshead Georgia. When judging these classes it is so difficult as by the definition of the competition they aren't standing next to each other as they would be in the show ring.

2016 born Heifer.

I found my winner in this class in Ruscombe Gentian. Sired by Woldsmen Young Man she is an animal full of potential. Well grown and in calf for spring calving she looked impressive in all aspects. Second I awarded to Wellshead Hayley. Again another well grown in calf heifer with no faults; she is sired by Appleton Barratt. Third was Boames Gwen, another Appleton Barratt daughter. There was nothing really between any of these animals and on another day could well have gone another way. Of note in this class were Lagan Lady Charlotte, Cools USA, Abbeyvale Hebe and Mendip Geminine. It was good to see these very good animals, the breeds future looks in good hands.

Some excellent 2018 born calves were seen with everyone having several impressive animals. However I had to make a decision and on the day decided on Wheatfield Imogen's Lark as winner with Misty Iris in

second place and Mendip Icon in third. These three calves will I'm sure have a fantastic future within the breed.

In general there weren't many finished steers viewed. However three stood out for their overall conformation, condition and finish. All three awarded prizes were to be slaughtered the following week; it would be interesting to see what the grade sheets stated. First Misty 500413, second Ruscombe 200100 and third Cools 400315.

I was disappointed not to see more crossbred steers as we had been specifically asked to have this class added to the competition. Only two were forward with Lagan 101087, a British White cow x Red Poll bull, first and Wheatfield 300952, a Hereford bull x Red Poll cow second. Crossbred calves were again short on the ground with only two forward with Lagan 501189, an Angus bull x Red Poll cow first and Misty 100515, a Beef Shorthorn cow X Red Poll bull second.

As previously stated it was a pleasure for me to be shown around the herds. There are some excellent cattle out there which very few other members from the Society ever see. The Herd Competition is a brilliant way of this being addressed. It also gives you the chance of comparing your herd with others and for showcasing what you are doing, there are some very impressive herds out there doing a fantastic job for the industry and environment using a fantastic versatile breed. Long may it continue.

Ray Bowler

Herd Competition Southern Region – Results 2018

Large Herd—Kemerton Cup

1. Lagan Farms—Lagan Herd
2. Caddy and Reading—East Knoyle Herd
3. Quentin and Maggie Edwards—Cools Herd

Small Herd—Philip Caddy Memorial Trophy

1. Lord Huntingdon—Wellshead Herd
2. Rebecca Charley—Ruscombe Herd
3. Anthea and Jeff Daw—Wheatfield Herd
3. David and Michelle Wootton—Misty Herd

Overall—Hartswell Perpetual Cup

1. Lagan Farms

Youngstock—Lagan Farm Trophy

1. East Knoyle—Caddy and Reading
2. Ruscombe—Rebecca Charley
3. Boames—David Tompkins

Registered Stock Bull—East Beere Bowl

1. Woldsman Brigadier—Roger Thomas, Abbeyvale
2. Appleton Barratt—Lord Huntingdon, Wellshead
3. Cools Ferdinand—Quentin and Maggie Edwards, Cools

Senior Cow—Barkham Square Shield

1. Lagan Olwyn—Lagan Farms
2. Cools Trixie—Quentin and Maggie Edwards
3. Wellshead Bess—Lord Huntingdon

Junior Cow—The Bowler Barrel

1. Mendip Chocolate Box—Susan Tanner and John Davies
2. Abbeyvale Gentian—Roger Thomas
3. Misty Firefly—David and Michelle Wootton

Steer—Cools Cup

1. Misty 500413—David and Michelle Wootton
2. Ruscombe 200100—Rebecca Charley
Cools 400315—Quentin and Maggie Edwards

2016 born Heifer—Abbeyvale Tankard

1. Ruscombe Gentian—Rebecca Charley
2. Wellshead Hayley—Lord Huntingdon
3. Boames Gwen—David Tompkins

Progeny Group—Hurst Salver

1. Appleton Barratt—David Tompkins, Boames June, Grace and Gwen
2. Grafton Lucky Jim—Anthea and Jeff Daw, Pochin Illston, Haltwhistle and Hanby
3. Woldsman Young Man—Rebecca Charley, Ruscombe Gentian, Geranium and Guilder-Rose

Three Related Females—Underhills Gold Cup

1. Anthea and Jeff Daw—Pochin Haltwhistle, Wheatfield Future and Imogen's Lark
2. Susan Tanner and John Davies—East Beere Xolome, Mendip Chocolate Box and Goody Goody Yum Yum
3. Lord Huntingdon—Wellshead Bess, Hayley and Isabelle

Suckling Calf—Penn Cup

1. Wheatfield Imogen's Lark—Anthea and Jeff Daw
2. Misty Iris—David and Michelle Wootton
3. Mendip Icon—Susan Tanner and John Davies

Cross-bred Steer—Mendip Salver

1. British White x 101087—Lagan Farms
2. Hereford x 300952—Anthea and Jeff Daw

Cross-bred Suckling Calf—

Huntingdon Trophy

1. Aberdeen Angus x steer 501189—Lagan Farms
2. Shorthorn x steer 100514—David and Michelle Wootton

Friday 25th – Stand duty at Beef Expo all day. A very successful day with plenty of interest in the Blonde X cattle we had on display. Loaded the cattle for their return to Rugby at 5.00pm, packed up the stand and returned to the Travelodge.

Saturday 26th – Judging Red Poll classes at the Shropshire Show in Shrewsbury. A very good morning with some good cattle forward. I made Terry and Helen Mancey's bull Moreton Forsbrook Champion.

Left the show at 2.00pm for the drive home to Chelmsford, arrived home at 8.00pm, traffic was horrendous, what great roads we have the M6, M1 and M25, what could be better!

Sunday 27th – Left home at 7.00am to attend the Hertfordshire Show located in Redbourne which is just outside St Albans. Another very busy day with plenty on interest in the breed. The previous day Denis Jenkins had made Joy Broughton's young bull Nobodys Kingdom Champion. Arrived back home at 6.00pm.

Monday 28th – Bank holiday. Didn't do anything specifically, checked emails in the morning and dealt with any correspondence then had a family afternoon.

Tuesday 29th – No College this week as half term. Morning getting ready for Suffolk Show. Left at 2.00pm for Ipswich. Arrived at 3.30pm. Set up stand in cattle lines, assisted exhibitors as required. Left showground at 7.00pm, arrived home about 8.00pm.

Wednesday 30th – Left home at 6.00am arriving at showground at 7.15am in preparation for showing which commences at 8.00am. Very busy day at the show talking to members, prospective members, public etc. An excellent show of cattle culminating with Sarah and Gerald Barnes's bull Hopeham Fauzie being made Breed Champion by Judge Su Mahon. In the afternoon a very successful Inter-College handling competition was held, this being judged expertly by Sophie Gurton, with the winner being Megan Clifford of Writtle College. Left the showground at 6.30pm arriving home just before 8.00pm.

Thursday 31st – Repeat of yesterday attending the Suffolk Show in Ipswich.

Friday 1st June – Visiting and assessing three apprentices – did it today as missed last Friday due to being at Beef Expo. Visits to Waltham Abbey, Epping and Ongar.

Saturday 2nd – Checking emails, correspondence etc. then afternoon doing family things.

Sunday 3rd – Early start today leaving home at 6.00am to get the 6.30am train from Chelmsford to Liverpool Street and then to Euston station to catch the 8.10am train to Edinburgh and then the connection to Kirkcaldy arriving at 3.30pm. I was met there by Billy Laird, a new member of the Society who has been buying up cattle for the last 12 months. The main reason for visiting was to inspect a young bull which he had purchased as a suckling calf the previous year from the Prescotts.

Whilst there I had a tour of the farm which consists of about 300 suckler cows, primarily Belgium Blue and Blonde cross cows with Blue or Blonde

Diary of the Secretary May – July 2018

I thought it might be interesting to write a report of my comings and goings for a busy period of time earlier this year. It's not all Red Poll associated, in fact teaching at Writtle College, where I run the agricultural apprentices, takes up a fair chunk of the time, but it is interesting to look at where I went and what I was doing. Together with the travels etc I checked the emails nearly every day and dealt with whatever correspondence and normal Society tasks that needed to be dealt with. I have written in the form of a diary which makes it more interesting and appropriate.

Monday 14th May – Left home at 7.30am to travel to Sally Grimwood's in Leiston, Suffolk, to start putting the Old Development Society data onto our Grassroots database which Sally has in various forms. Arrived back home at 6.00pm.

Tuesday 15th May – Teaching at Writtle all day.

Wednesday 16th – Office day.

Thursday 17th – Left home at 7.30am and went to Leiston again to complete the data imputing. Arrived home at 6.00pm.

Friday 18th – Visiting four apprentices to undertake their employer reviews and practical assessments. Places visited: Beaumont-cum-Moze, Brightlingsea and Marks Tey.

Saturday 19th – Matinee and evening performances of Oklahoma at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford. For those who don't know, my main hobby is performing in amateur operatic, and this week I have been on stage every evening, since Sunday, playing Cord Elam in Oklahoma.

Sunday 20th – All day judging the cattle classes at the Essex Young Farmers Show. What an experience this was, judging Continental beef, Native beef and Young Handlers. It was a long session but thoroughly enjoyable. I found my Champion in James Rea's Red Poll cow Ladlers Cameo, very ably shown by students from Writtle College. I'm sure I upset some exhibitors as a Red Poll had never won at the show before but what a cow, I couldn't do anything else and was fully justified.

Monday 21st – Office day.

Tuesday 22nd – Teaching at Writtle all day.

Wednesday 23rd – Office in the morning preparing for Beef Expo. Left home at 2.00pm to travel to Mark and Gill Martin's in Rugby in preparation for sorting and preparing the stock for the Beef Expo display at Shrewsbury market on Friday. Stayed with Mark and Gill.

Thursday 24th – Washed show cattle in the morning. Lorry arrived at 1.00pm to take cattle to Shrewsbury. Drove to Shrewsbury and prepared pens, setup display etc. When cattle arrived settled them into their pens, fed and watered them. Left for Travelodge hotel at 8.00pm.



Southern Area Herd Competition Presentation Report 2018

Sunday 7th October saw 25 members and friends meet at Lagan Farms, Gillingham, Dorset for the Herd walk and presentation of awards for the Southern Area. It was good to see so many members present who had travelled from as far away as Whitland in South Wales, Falmouth in Cornwall, Dartmoor in Devon, Wells in Somerset and Newbury in Berkshire to locals, plus yours truly from Chelmsford.

What a fantastic day it was for viewing the herds of cattle, the sun was shining and the cattle looked excellent and really showed themselves off. Following the walk we all sat down to a very well received lunch arranged by Jayne Mainstone and her team. After lunch the presentations of trophies and certificates were made.

A very big thank you to Ron Clark and his team for providing an excellent venue, showing us first class cattle and for providing hospitality of the highest order.

Ray Bowler

Westmorland Show Results 2018 Judge: Stephen Prescott

Bull any age:

- 1st Pinguis Frederick—John Williams
- 2nd Bowland Gonzalo—Simon Temple

Cow in calf or with calf at foot:

- 1st Moreton Baby Drury—Helen and Terry Mancey
- 2nd Pinguis Emily 15th—John Williams
- 3rd Bowland Flame—Simon Temple
- 4th Chorlton Lane Crystal—Helen Arthan
- 5th Bowland Evita—Simon Temple

Heifer born in 2016:

- 1st Pinguis Emily 18th—John Williams

Heifer born in 2017:

- 1st Pinguis Emily 19th—John Williams
- 2nd Moreton Baby Huia—Helen and Terry Mancey
- 3rd Chorlton Lane Hokey Cokey—Helen Arthan
- 4th Moreton Fiona 6th—Helen and Terry Mancey

Pairs:

- 1st John Williams
- 2nd Helen Arthan
- 3rd Simon Temple

Breed Champion

Pinguis Frederick—John Williams

Reserve

Moreton Baby Drury—Helen and Terry Mancey

Euston Estate Visit – 2018

The Society Field Day on Sunday 22nd July to the Duke and Duchess of Grafton and Countess of Euston's Euston Estate in Suffolk was a real treat for the 65 members and friends who attended. In the middle of a very dry summer we toured some 10,500 acres of the Euston Estate – including 6,500 acres of in-hand farming. We saw a wide variety of enterprises including the Grafton Herd of Red Poll cattle.

We were warmly greeted by our very kind hosts including Estate Manager Andrew Blenkiron in the historic old kitchen at Euston Hall. The Hall and grounds are on occasion open to the public which is currently home to the 12th Duke of Grafton and built in 1670. Various commercial and charitable activities take place there including the Rural Pastimes Country Fair, small scale music festivals, major concerts, equine endurance trials and the East Anglian Game and Country Fair. It was particularly interesting to Martin and myself as the family previously owned Wakefield Lodge Estate near Grafton Regis which is local to us in Northamptonshire. The whole of the farming enterprise is now part of five separate Higher Level Stewardship Schemes and in 2016 were the winners of the Greenest Farming Business category of the Suffolk Creating the Greenest County Awards.



Andrew Blenkiron

After welcome refreshments we boarded the trailers and toured some of the Estate. The 1000 acres of maize, plus another 1000 acre contracted in, supplies the 2.5MW gas to grid Anaerobic Digester plant which was our first point of call. The by-product of the process is a valuable source of fertilizer for the light and hungry Breckland soil. Following this we were shown the pheasant and partridge rearing unit which supplies the commercial shoot. Some 50,000 birds are reared, this is a valuable source of income for the estate, in fact it's one of the main income streams. Following this we were shown the shooting range and solar panels which are seen more and more in the countryside these days. The solar panels provide valuable grazing for sheep who are kept on a keep basis for a local producer.



The impressive reservoir we viewed was one of two on the farm. Each holds 200 million gallons of water. These are fed by water from the Blackthorn and Little Ouse rivers and can be filled when the rivers are above a certain level. A licensed bore hole also supplies 42 million gallons of water. Without the irrigation the 600 acres of sugar beet, 700 acres of potatoes, 250 acres of onions and 200 acres of carrots wouldn't flourish at all. On the day we visited there were 22 irrigators were in operation. Other crops grown are 1000 acres of winter wheat and 375 acres of spring barley. On the way back to the hall we passed the 3000 sow outdoor pig unit. How nice it was to see the pigs enjoying the sunshine. The thriving log business was next to be viewed, some 1500 acres of forestry is managed which is part of the largest semi-ancient broad leaved woodland in East Anglia.

On return to the hall we had a delicious lunch which included their own succulent Red Poll beef, this was very much appreciated as too was the extremely good red wine!

In the afternoon we walked around the beautiful grounds, designed by Capability Brown and William Kemp, on the way to view the Grafton herd of Red Poll cattle. We passed the ornamental lakes and mature woodland trees. These have been positioned so the view from the house could encompass a large area of the estate.

The cattle were in two batches, in the beautiful parkland setting, of cows and spring born calves. The bulls had just been removed, Nobodys Diablo and Pochin Fernie-James. The cattle looked well in the large fields but weren't being very co-operative as the hot weather meant that they were hiding under the trees, however a bag of nuts in Andrew's capable hands, brought them closer albeit for a short time.

The cattle spend all year outside and are well managed by Andrew.

The vision of our hosts is "To improve Euston Hall and Estate, with each generation being custodians who will act responsibly with the whole Estate for their successors." This they are certainly achieving and we thank the Duke, Duchess, Countess and their staff for a most enjoyable, interesting and rewarding visit.

Caroline Kellner

