Bulls for Sale
These bulls are advertised on the website and you could advertise there as well. Photos always help and this is a free service. Please contact the Secretary.

Royal Roseman M1
Andrew Kirk,
Pochin Herd Manager
Location: Leicestershire
Contact details: 07496 573887
DOB: 04/02/2012
Sire: Appleton Spartacus M1
Dam: Woldsman Viola

Senior Herd Sire for sale due to his many daughters in the renowned Pochin Herd, winner of the National Herd Competition for the past two years. With over 70 daughters registered, many of which can be viewed in the Pochin Herd, it is an excellent opportunity to purchase a first class bull. Viewing is strongly recommended.

Hepworth Tarragon M0
DOB: 27/11/2014
Sire: Pochin Fernie-James M0
Dam: Hepworth Tansy

Five year old proven bull for sale due to his daughters entering the herd. Is very quiet and easy to handle. He was Champion Red Poll at the Winter Livestock Festival, Peterborough in 2015. Will make an ideal addition to any herd.
‘Would you like contented animals like these? Contact us!’

Herd size: 100 suckler cows, easy calving, all male calves left entire, sold as beef @ 15-18 months of age @ 550-600kgs or for breeding.
All young bulls weighed regularly & we are achieving gains of 1.7kg per day up to 365 days of age (own records).
Young cows, in calf and maiden heifers usually for sale.

Fedw Stig 26877

Sire: Fedw Thomos
Dam: Fedw Crag
Born: 26:2:2002
Weight: June 2003 606kg January 2009 1150kg

Semen Available for UK & Export

Bulls for Hire

J.R. Williams
Pinguis Herd of Red Poll Cattle
2 Sleapford, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6HQ
Tel: 01952 254203
Email: jrw2@btinternet.com

www.pinguisherd.com

WOLDSMAN RED POLLS
S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS
WOLD HOUSE LUND DRIFFIELD E YORKS YO25 9TW

Founded 1953
All females are home bred and registered with the Society
Health status: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis tested.
No animal we have bred has ever had BSE.

Andrew & Office: Ben: Stephen:
Tel: 01377 217232 Tel: 07855 041632 Tel: 01964 550229
Fax: 01377 271813 Mob: 07985 745990
Email: prescott.andrew@btconnect.com Email: ysgpescott@btinternet.com
POCHIN HERD OF RED POLL

Founded 2003 and already recognised internationally for the highest quality pedigree stock

National Champion of the Red Poll Herd Competition 2014

Full BVD/LEPTO/Pneumonia vaccination programme

JOHNES disease/TB/BRUCELLOSIS tested

Various breeding stock available for sale; please contact:

Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694 or
Mr Richard Sanders 01858 410200
IN THIS ISSUE

Secretary’s Report ................................................................. 5
Judges for 2019 Shows ............................................................. 7
New Members ............................................................................. 7
The Image of British Agriculture ............................................... 7
Herd Competition 2019 ............................................................. 9
David Anderson Cross ............................................................. 11
Red Poll Cattle—the perfect suckler cow .................................... 12
Slaughter weights and grades from a Suffolk Red Poll herd .......... 14
The Red Poll Archive ................................................................. 20
Some interesting statistics from Australia .................................... 22
Regional Field Officer Arrangements ......................................... 24

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

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
Paul Rackham Ltd
Manor Farm, Bridgham, Norwich NR16 2RX
01953 717176
Some interesting statistics from Australia in 1955

Secretary’s Report — 23rd February 2019

There are 13 new members for election at this meeting, 13 at this time last year, there are 11 registering and two associate. There are 376 members – 385 at this meeting last year. There have been 51 new members, four reinstated with 64 resignations during 2018; however it must be remembered that a large proportion of these are students coming and going.

The makeup of the membership is therefore: 257 Registering/Life Registering, 80 Associate/Life Associate, six Overseas and 33 Student/Junior. Since the last meeting I have sent out ten information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

48 straws of semen have been sold so far this year, compared to 52 last year. Last year’s total was 332 straws.

No bulls have been inspected since the last meeting, therefore 26 were inspected and registered last year.

Registrations were once again a real struggle but by being persistent with emails and phone calls the final figures are 752 Registered Females, 49 Grading Females and 26 Bulls making a total of 827 animals, these are from 117 breeders, a shortfall of 120 animals when compared with registrations for 2017 which were 923 females, 95 of which were Grading animals, and 23 bulls, from 126 breeders. This is a somewhat worry decline however I know of at least well over 100 heifers which weren’t registered for various reasons, which would have meant that numbers would be very similar to last year. I also think it is a sign of the times that many more cows are being mated with beef bulls to make crossbred cattle for commercial sale as it is of no doubt that these cattle sell better in the open market.

I have visited 20 members in Essex and South Suffolk together with two days in Norfolk visiting new members, members who have stock for sale and other members who I haven’t been to for several years. I visited nine members over the two days, staying overnight with Tony and Ann Barratt. I have attended the Annual Dinner at the Hunters Lodge Hotel, Crewe, followed the next day by the visit to John and Helen Langley’s Oakland Herd in Bunbury. Also attended was the Winter Livestock Festival in Peterborough. In addition to the Breeding Committee meeting held at Dick Smith’s in Pettistree. I have been to the Show and Sales Committee meeting’s at Joy Broughton’s, Brogborough, which was combined with a Youth Committee meeting.

I accompanied Paul Grainger, from Capel Manor College, when he collected five steers they have purchased from John Reading, Wiltshire. They needed to be organic reared animals hence the distance travelled to collect them.

Joy Broughton and I attended an AHDB Seminar on Geonomics and EBVs in Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
I have also been to Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire for three days visiting eight new and existing members. John Williams accompanied me to the majority of these which hopefully has been very productive in the sale of the majority of the Underhills Herd with two new members hopefully taking the cattle.

Joy Broughton organized a mini tour of the Midlands for 10 Norwegian Red Poll breeders. I joined them for one of the three days. This was an excellent tour. Thank you to everyone who hosted and in particular to Joy for organizing. Hopefully some semen sales will come out of it but we’ll have to wait and see as disease protocols may prove to be difficult.

I have nothing to report about Probationary Judges.

Cattle sales have been fairly quiet through the winter. However The Dodds Herd has been dispersed and purchased by a new member in Shropshire. The Plemondestowe Herd has been greatly reduced with 60 animals being purchased by another new member in Scotland. Quentin Edwards has sold 20 cows to another new member, Peter Irish, in Somerset. He is looking for another 30-40 cows but they must be organic which is proving difficult to source. Other smaller numbers have been moved with the Worlingworth Herd being dispersed and purchased by a prospective new member in Norfolk. They are resisting joining the Society at present as they say they will only be crossing the cattle but I will keep working on them! Four in-milk cows have been purchased from Alan Hewson by another new member in Buckinghamshire. She is milking the cows and hopes to increase milking numbers in the future. There are a few batches of cattle for sale on the website, be it cows, heifers and bulls.

Sales through Livestock Markets have been disappointing, with Simon Phelp’s Boseley Herd being dispersed through Ross-on-Wye market for poor prices. Bindwell Ltd, Norfolk, dispersed the Gumleaf Herd at Newark market. These cows made reasonable money, but they were suckling April/May born Aberdeen Angus cross calves which looked excellent, the problem was though that the cows weren’t back in-calf so didn’t make as much as they should have. I haven’t heard of any more sales but if anyone knows of any please let me know so that I have a good reference point to work from when asked about what prices their animals should be realising.

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.

Ray Bowler
Secretary – Red Poll Cattle Society
Tel: 01245 600032
Mr. Cobbald stated that all the animals in the Show were handled and presented in much the same way as in England. This itself was a very great advance and breeders as well as their men showed much more interest.

Mr. Cobbald then referred to the bull classes. “Of the bulls sent out from England,” he said, “Hallingbury Aristocrat was outstanding. In fact, he was acclaimed the best bull of any breed in the Show although, and in my opinion, rightly so, there was no interbred

The outstanding impression formed by Mr. D. A. Cobbald, when he visited the South American state of Colombia last summer to judge at the National Cattle Show in Bogota, was the noticeable improvement in the Red Poll breed since his previous visit five years earlier.

“I found their Red Polls had improved a great deal,” he said. “The young stock were better grown and the udders of most of the older cows were greatly improved.”

New Members

Tony Metcalf, Forgewood House, Wray Road, Wennington, Lancaster, LA2 8NN
Wendy Houston, Apple Acre, Berghersh, Drive, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9EZ
Ferry House Farm (Hannah Skepper), Ferry Farm, Sudbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2HD
Charles Trembath, Sunset Farm, Carnyorth, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7QB
J. Keeling & Sons, Crays Hall Farm, Church Lane, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2UN
Elaine Watson, 47 Beechfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 3RG
Matthew Thomson, Pilmuir, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland, TD9 0PD
Daniel Powell, Home Farm, Rowton, Halfway House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 9EN
Jenny Bellamy, 34 Springfield Gardens, Deanshanger, Milton Keynes, MK19 6HY
Christopher Johnson, Thorpe Hall, Church Road, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Norwich, NR14 6PT
Dorothy Mountford, Hollyhurst Villa, Ossmere Lane, Marbury, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY 13 4LZ
Irish Brothers – Peter Irish, Fords Croft Farm, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7TU
Alan Stephens, Brookside Farm, Coal Pit Lane, Brereton, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 1EW
Neville Howe, Lower Oaks Farm, Iken, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EP
Tithebarn Ltd, suppliers of mineral and vitamin supplements, protein concentrates, forage preservatives, feed blocks and mineral licks.

For further information about how our products can benefit your stock please contact:

Tithebarn Limited
Road Five
Winsford Industrial Estate
Winsford
Cheshire CW7 3PG

Telephone: 01606 595000
Fax: 01606 595045
Email: info@tithebarn.co.uk

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Slaughter weights and grades from a Suffolk Red Poll Herd

Roger Carter farms at Stowupland, Suffolk in partnership with his wife and two sons. The farm is mainly arable but they have some conservation water meadows which they graze. They also have some meadows which they cut for hay for the horse trade or make haylage for the cattle. They grow a reasonable amount of sugar beet and they also grow about six acres of fodder beet for the cattle. They have about 25 cows plus youngstock and sell the steers to a local butcher in the village. He has been a member since 2003. He has been buying bulls from Tony Barratt; he has one older one and then buys a young one every three years so has two around at any one time then he either moves the older one on after six years or he culls it for another one. The cattle are housed in the winter, calve mainly in the spring but have recently spread out the calving a bit so they have a more even spread of cattle for sale. For the last couple of years they have been killing heifers as well as they have got up to breeding cow numbers and they have had a disproportionate number of heifer calves born. They would be prepared to sell some for breeding but get more for them as beef, plus Roger says if they aren’t good enough for him to keep he doesn’t want them going to anyone else!

There is data from 40 animals covering a three year period. The average age at slaughter is 22 months. Unfortunately we don’t have any liveweights at slaughter. As can be seen the cattle have generally been slaughtered earlier of late as the butcher who they supply wanted a smaller carcase. Average carcase weights over the three year period were 272Kg. Grading is: R3 = 3, R4L = 7, O+3 = 9, O+4L = 9, O+4H = 4, -O3 = 5, -O4L = 4. This equates to 68% of the carcases in the grades aimed for. However these are very much in line with grades achieved by other breeders. The cattle are basically forage reared on summer grazing and winter haylage and some fodder beet is fed in the winter. Cattle being finished in the winter. The cattle are basically forage reared on summer grazing and winter haylage and some fodder beet is fed in the winter. Cattle being finished in the winter.

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I was one of seven young farmers who were lucky enough to be nominated to represent British farming in partnership with the National Farmers’ Union, The Worshipful Company of Farmers, Massey Ferguson and Red Tractor in the Lord Mayor’s Show.

The parade took place on Saturday 10th November in the heart of the City of London and is one of the longest-running annual events in London’s history, as well as being the longest-running broadcasted event in television history.

A new Lord Mayor of the City is appointed each year and the parade takes place after his/her inauguration ceremony, on a 3.2 mile route which passes the Mayor at Mansion House. There were 110 ‘floats’, named so as they were formerly barges that went down the River Thames, including livery companies, bands of the armed forces, charities, and other groups that the Lord Mayor supports.

As part of our float, we had one of the only two Massey Fergusson 9T combines in the country, in addition to a loader tractor filled with a display of straw and hampers of British produce, one of which was to be presented to the Lord Mayor as we passed him on our route. The message that we wanted to take to the British public was ‘British farmers are proud to produce your food’, a message which we all feel passionately about. I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent the NFU members of East Anglia during the parade.

At a time of relative political instability in Europe, and at a time where the urban-residing population is almost 85%, and on the rise, we felt it was especially important to advocate the importance of the countryside and break down barriers in knowledge regarding agriculture and food production. The parade and publicity surrounding it, including an interview live on BBC1, was also the perfect opportunity to do this.

I believe there is a lack of public understanding, especially in the younger generations, about where their food comes from, and this is likely to affect young people, like myself, entering the agricultural industry. It is therefore important to show the public the advantages of buying British, namely the quality, high welfare, traceability and locality.

This is a message that is at the forefront of our family farm in Bedfordshire, and is especially important to us at Christmas time, when we market our Christmas turkeys solely to local butchers and private customers through farm gate sales. Having a good relationship with the consumer is key to them understanding our love and passion for farming, showing them that we really care about the welfare and standard of the product we produce, contrary to what we sometimes see on social media, especially with regards to criticism aimed at the dairy industry. Hopefully, they see our commitment and want to buy more British produce, contributing to the maintenance of the rich fabric of the countryside we love.

Ray Bowler

The image of British Agriculture – by Anna Hunt
I wanted to challenge public perception of farming when I decided to drive one of our tractors into my school in Bedford in March 2017 (with permission!). By parking it just inside of the school gates, I answered many questions about my motive and also about agriculture in general. I wanted to raise the profile of young people, especially women, getting into the industry and also to market British agriculture and food in a way which rocked the boat slightly. Previously, I have been faced with raised eyebrows with regard to being a young woman interested in the industry and also on social media with regards to my views surrounding topics such as veganism, however I am proud to be confident enough to educate people on and defend the industry that I feel so passionately about.

Back on the farm, my brother and I are expanding our herd of Red Poll cattle, which started with one in-calf cow with calf at foot 10 years ago. We enjoy showing them at several different summer agricultural shows, and although very time consuming, it is especially rewarding to see the public interest in the animals we exhibit, and more generally, their engagement in agriculture which the shows display so well.

It is our duty, as farmers, to engage with the public and expand their knowledge of agriculture as we move into the uncertain future.

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This dual purpose herd of 12 cows, bull plus young stock are kept on the small holding of 15 acres in North Shropshire. The ground is light and I find the cattle thrive well in both wet and dry seasons. All cattle are housed for February and March to rest the ground. During the winter the cattle are fed on silage or hay and a small amount of corn for those in-milk feeding calves. I find them a placid breed and very economical to keep.

John Williams, Shropshire
The herd was started about twenty five years ago as a hobby but grew to over two hundred head as more conservation land became available, this is now being reduced as we get older! Red Poll are a placid and an easy breed to keep and ours are outside all year round. Calving is usually in February and March so the calves are ready for the spring grass. We rarely intervene in any calving and expect to get over 90% success in live births to weaning. They are kept on light land during the winter and moved to summer grazing on the Suffolk marshes. Winter feed is hay, straw and fodder beet or other roots.

...
Thank you all for coming to this celebration of David's life.

Over the last three years, David has battled ill health with fortitude and resilience. During that time there are a number of people, who made a difference and whom I would like to thank:

David, who lived to be 92, had a long and interesting life, living and working here in the village of Ixworth and it is about this that I would like to talk. My talk is based on a piece of writing entitled “A Long Life” that David, himself, wrote a couple of years ago.

He was born in 1926 at Dairy Farm, Ixworth to Stanley and Doris Cross, the second of four children. The eldest son, John, also farmed in Ixworth and they had two sisters, Bridget and Josie, who is here today. They were educated at home by a "marvellous" governess, Ruth Carley. David then went away to a boarding school called Eversley in Southwold, where he shared a room with Ben Robins - little did he know that he would later marry Ben's cousin, Sally. Eversley School in Southwold was followed by some five years at Uppingham School, to where he won a scholarship. He worked hard at school particularly enjoying English literature (especially poetry), history and the classics (Greek and Latin). Farming times were hard in those days and he had been encouraged to follow a life in academia. However, at 17, he decided to follow the family tradition into farming. Consequently, he went up to Cambridge University to study agriculture and spent three very happy years at St John's College. He went back to Cambridge regularly to reunions and he loved to reminisce about his time there. Conditions there might sound a bit Spartan to us nowadays as, in the early mornings, he had to run over the Bridge of Sighs, wearing just his dressing gown, to get to the undoubtedly cold showers, situated on the other side of the river. Indeed, the only heating in his room was from a small coal fire, the coal for which, had to be lugged up two flights of stairs. Still, he revelled in his time there, much enjoying and participating in the academic debates with his peers.

On to his years in farming. His chief farming interest was his beloved Red Poll cattle to which he often applied a scholarly approach: my aunt, Janet, tells us that he would recite whole tracts of poetry to his cows to ensure that they were calm and ready for milking. He also applied an academic approach with regard to their breeding. He introduced Devons to improve the beef side and Danish Reds to improve the milk output of the dairy herd. We remember family holidays spent in Denmark when, rather than go to the beach, we would chase around various dairy farms and in between these, screech to a halt on the side of a busy road to view yet another field of cows, all accompanied by him taking endless photos of cows’

We started our Red Poll herd in 2000 having double suckled three Simmental cows for two lactations. We realised that we could do the same job with a smaller cow which was cheaper to feed and more suited to our old buildings. We chose Red Polls as our local rare breed which would be easy to manage and have plenty of milk. This proved to be a good choice and we continued double suckling for several years until calves became too difficult to find with the disappearance of dairy herds, and I had sciatica for several months!

Our herd peaked at 18 cows a couple of years ago but is now being reduced to facilitate “retirement”. The breed are easy calving and wonderful mothers, and do very well on rented river meadows in the summer which are all in environmental schemes and receive no inputs. The cattle come in for the winter as the grazing floods, and they live on haylage and very little cake. Red Poll breeders and the Society are a very friendly and helpful bunch, and we have also enjoyed the camaraderie of showing our cattle.

Richard and I chose Red Polls for several reasons. Our criteria were: a rare breed; produces good beef; does well on good traditional mixed grasslands and preferably had no horns. The last point is obviously quite a limiting factor, although more breeds are moving that way now. So back in the days of the Royal Show we took ourselves off on the rare breed showing day and spent quite a few hours watching the different breeds being paraded around the ring. We kept coming back to the Red Poll because they clearly had a quiet temperament and were reasonably easy to handle. They obviously produced a good amount of meat on their frame and they were lovely to look at.

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Our decision was made and we have built up our herd from home bred animals, just changing the bull every few years. We are friendly, quiet and very easy to handle, ignoring the local dog walkers going through their fields. They graze some fantastic species rich calcareous grassland around the Stroud Valleys; our own and some for the National Trust and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They are excellent conservation grazers and we are able to leave them out all year round. They finish well reaching 650kg with delicious tasting meat at the end. The locals love them and always know whose cattle they are because we are the only people with “red” animals, and many volunteer to help check them. A bonus for us.

Richard and Mary Brookes - Norfolk

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Rebecca Charley - Gloucestershire
We chose dual purpose Native Red Poll cattle because of the excellent temperament and being a medium sized animal are easy to handle. They are an excellent breed to use for a sucker herd. The cows/heifers are easy calving and due to their milkiness produce a calf that grows away quickly. We house the cattle in sheds over winter to save the grassland from poaching as we are on heavy ground and they are fed silage and minerals, no concentrates. Steers finish between 24-28 months at approximately 600 kg live weight. Red Poll meat is of excellent quality with the marbling giving it fabulous flavour and we have repeat customers for our boxed beef. There is nothing better on a summer’s day than seeing a herd of Red Polls grazing in the sunshine.

Abbey Herd

The Red Poll is the ideal breed for me. They’re medium sized, have excellent temperaments and fit into my system perfectly. They calve unassisted and are first class mums. Their calves grow quickly on the abundance of milk mum produces. Most of my animals are sold for breeding, but when I have finished a steer the meat is excellent and very much in demand.

I chose Red Poll cattle for my pedigree sucker herd in order to support a rare or minority British breed and to provide a niche product. Red Polls are dual purpose: the dairy element produces tender meat while the beef side gives good muscling. The result is top quality beef with lots of marbling, not too much fat and a fabulous flavour (like beef used to taste as some of my customers say). The milkiness of the cattle means the calves do very well. The cows calve easily and are good mothers, easy to get back in calf, long-lived. The herd thrives on old permanent pasture, extensively grazed with very low inputs, managed under an environmental stewardship scheme. The bullocks finish at anything from 24 months off grass. I farm on my own so the gentle temperament of the Red Polls is important to me. And they look gorgeous!

Helen Arthan, Cheshire

The herd won many prizes and championships, including five times at the Royal Show. He was elected to the Red Poll Council and later became President for a year. He judged all over England and Scotland and even travelled as far as the USA and Colombia to fulfil judging duties.

In 1986 he broke away from the family company and from then onwards farmed with his son, Richard, from Abbey Farm, which had been our family home. Then two years later he converted Mill Barn and lived there for nearly 30 years, transforming the concrete pad outside into a beautiful garden, which was his pride and joy.

David enjoyed many different sporting activities: he rowed while at university - here he also liked to punt up the Cam, which was a skill which he passed on to me and I, in turn, to my children. He also played hockey, tennis (he had a demon/erratic serve, which was either miles out, or, occasionally, an ace!), he played badminton across the road in the village hall and golf at Flempton Golf Club. Here he was proud to be club captain 1993-4 and here he also achieved four holes-in-one. We are grateful and honoured that the flag at Flempton club house has been flying at half-mast to mark his passing.

For David, having lived in Ixworth all his life, village life was very important. He was the secretary and treasurer of Ixworth and District Agricultural club, a member of the Parochial Church Council for this church, which was always an important part of his life. He was also chairman of the Village Hall committee, chairman of the Parish Council and served on the St Edmundsbury District council for 13 years, including being on the Housing Committee. It was indeed rare that he was in on a weekday evening, as there were so many meetings to attend.

S Grimwood

It’s time to get the cameras snapping and find some quirky, pretty, interesting or just superb photos of your stunning Red Polls for our annual calendar.

If you have something you think could be included please email them to sally.g53@live.com. We would like to get the calendar ready for August so the latest date for entry will be July 20th 2019. They will then be selected by the Promotions and Publicity Committee.
We started keeping Red Polls six years ago on our farm in Essex to manage the grassland in conjunction with our equine enterprise. We wanted a breed that was easy to manage, did well on forage and produced excellent tasty beef. We have to say we haven’t been disappointed. We moved to Devon a couple of years ago taking the cattle with us. They fit the marginal land we have here very well and are thriving in the environment.

Liz Burbridge – Chulmleigh

We started our herd in 2010 following discussions with the Secretary of the Society. We wanted a breed that was native, quiet, easy to handle, easy calving and delicious to eat. The herd currently stands at 8 cows plus associated youngstock. Cows are yarded in winter and fed hay and minerals. All the youngstock are out-wintered and fed the same, a small quantity of concentrates are also fed to the youngstock. We hire a bull for the summer, however this year we have kept the male calves entire in the hope of selling breeding bulls to Society members.

Steepleditch Manor Fillys Herd

Our herd was formed by Helen’s father when he retired from being a stockman on a dairy farm. Being connected with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and remembering his early years milking Red Polls and learning that they were listed as vulnerable he started the herd. He had never forgotten the wonderful attributes of this dual purpose breed. The herd now numbers 30 in all, some of which spend the summer grazing rough pastures for Stafford Borough Council. They do well on this type of forage. The cows stay at home along with the show stock, but, if you were to ask us what has been the best thing about breeding Red Poll cattle we would have to say fellowship, being involved with the Society has given us connections not only throughout the UK but the rest of the world. We have been fortunate to meet some fantastic people who will be lifelong friends. Apart from the fact the cattle are easy to keep, easy on the eye and on the pocket what more would you want. Without doubt the most beautiful sight in the world is red cattle grazing green grass.

Helen and Terry Mancey, Caverswall, Stoke on Trent

We just love our Red Polls! We chose them as we wanted a rare breed that was traditional and could thrive outside all year round if necessary. They are easy calving with excellent mothering skills and the bulls that we have had are also very placid. We keep some outside all year round and some come inside over the wettest part of the winter. They are easy to handle and easy to halter train – well most of them!

They are gentle towards other livestock, we have had ewes and lambs in with them with no issues. The meat is fabulous, tender and with excellent taste, we have many repeat customers.

Susan Tanner – Somerset

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