

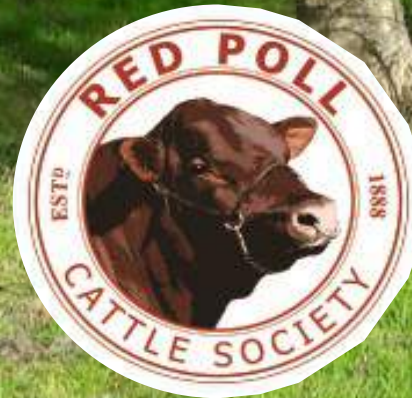
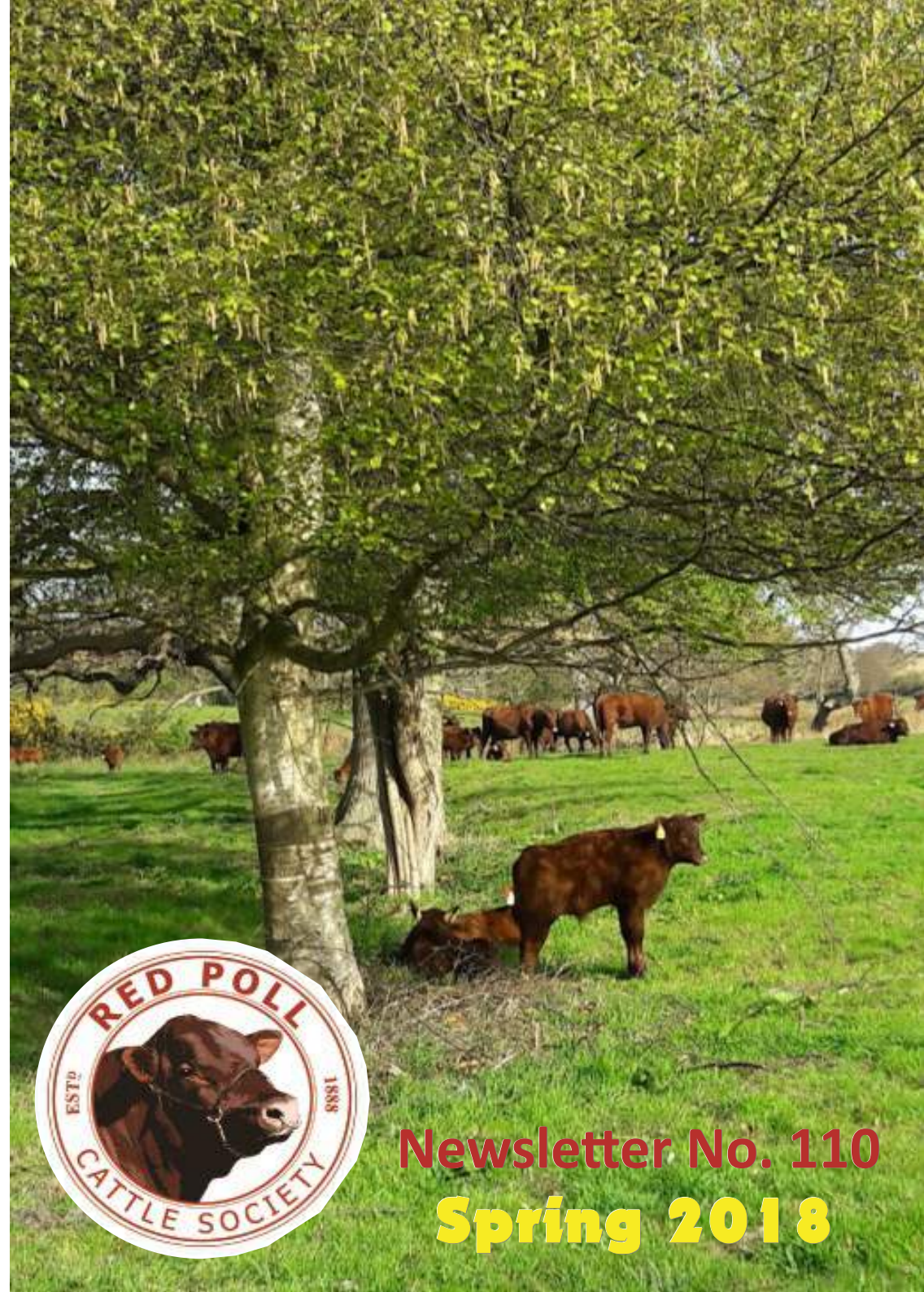
A painting commissioned by Giles Barrow

Dates of Council Meetings 2018

All to be held in
The Jersey Pavilion, Stoneleigh Park

24th February
21st April with AGM to follow after lunch.
28th July
27th October

If you have anything you would like the council to discuss please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler or your Regional Field Officer.



Newsletter No. 110
Spring 2018

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.

'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.

Andrew & Office:

Tel: 01377 217232

Ben:

Tel: 07855 041632

Stephen:

Tel: 01964 550229

Fax: 01377 271813

Mob: 07985 745990

Email: prescott.andrew@btconnect.com

Email: ysgprescott@btinternet.com

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

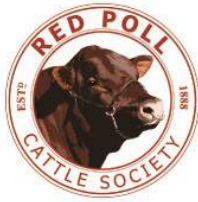
Pinguis Herd of Red Poll Cattle

2 Sleaford, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6HQ

Tel: 01952 254203

Email: jrw2@btinternet.com

www.pinguisherd.com



Red Poll Cattle Society Breeding Sale

held as part of the Native and Traditional Sale
of Livestock and RBST Poultry

Saturday 14th April 2018
at Melton Mowbray Livestock Market



All cattle will have been inspected prior to the sale.

Contact the market for further details and catalogue on:

**Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire, LE13 1JY**

Telephone:- 01664 562971 Fax:- 01664 561153



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. 110 Spring 2018

President: R. H. Smith
President Elect: A. L. Barratt
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 2018 registrations is I

Registration Fees

Heifer in the Herd Book of year of birth £12

Heifer outside the Herd Book of year of birth £24

Bull £80 Transfer of ownership £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.

For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office. Steers are always wanted.

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2018

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



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

Advertising on the Website

To advertise your Red Poll products on the website, please contact Sarah Barnes on 01508 470413 or sarah@gpbarnes.net

For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office. Steers are always wanted.

Advertisements are posted on the website for a month. They may be renewed after this time.

WE NEED A...

Publicity Officer to help us promote the Red Poll Breed and to encourage membership and support. Extensive knowledge of the breed is not a necessity, just some good ideas.

Can you can help?

If so, please email

sally.g53@live.com
or you can phone 07780964978



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 & 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

Grant from Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust

The Society has been successful in applying to the above Trust for a grant in respect of our College initiative. The grant is for £2,000 towards the financial support we will give in 2018 to the four colleges involved, Capel Manor in Enfield, Middx., Writtle College in Essex, Shuttleworth in Bedfordshire and Easton/Otley Colleges in Norfolk/Suffolk respectively.

The Trust's overall objective is to advance and improve agriculture, in particular to educate farmers and young persons in agricultural methods, developments and techniques, so fits well with the Society's College initiative to encourage colleges and students to show Red Poll cattle in Young Handler classes, mainly at Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Agricultural Shows.

Terina Booker
Treasurer

The Treasurer needs your help!

This year has seen a few puzzles, which to date I have not been able to solve, so I am appealing to two members to come forward and sort them out for me.

Firstly, we have had a cheque for £42 from "*The Apple Farm*" but no indication as to the name of the member or the invoice number to which it applies. I have emailed the only member who has that exact amount outstanding but to date there has been no response.

The second mystery is a payment by standing order in January for £50, obviously a membership subscription but I cannot allocate it to a member as the narrative on the bank statement shows that it is from "*Neil Simpson Build*". Again, as with the earlier item, neither Ray nor I can identify the member, despite searches on our Accounts and Membership software.

Terina Booker
AKA Mystified of Wickham Market

Show Dates 2018

13th May—South Suffolk Show at Ampton Racecourse, Nr Bury St Edmunds
19th May—Hadleigh Show at Holbecks Park, Hadleigh
20th May—Essex Young Farmers Show, Boyton Hall, Chelmsford
26th May—Hertfordshire County Show, Redbourn, Herts.
26th May—Shropshire County Show, West Midlands Showground
30th May—Staffordshire County Show, County Showground.
30th & 31st May—Suffolk Show, Ipswich.
15, 16 & 17th June—The Royal Three Counties Show, Malvern.
19th & 20th June—The Royal Cheshire Show, Knutsford.
27th & 28th June—The Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich.
14th July—Tendring Show, Manningtree.
25th July—Nantwich Show, The Showground, Nantwich.

Secretary's Report—24th February 2018

There are 13 new members for election at this meeting, two at this time last year, there are five registering, seven associate and one student. There are 385 members – 361 at this meeting last year. There have been 55 new members, four reinstated with 30 resignations during 2017. The makeup of the membership is therefore: 258 Registering/Life Registering, 75 Associate/Life Associate, six Overseas and 46 Student/Junior. Since the last meeting I have sent out 12 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

Semen sales are fairly buoyant with 102 straws being sold so far this year, compared to 52 last year, which hopefully is an encouraging trend. These have been 36 x Bowland Ferdinand, 20 x Fedw Tomos, 20 x Lavenham Sir Galahad, 16 x Lavenham Sir Lancelot & 10 x Bowland Vincentio.

Four bulls have been inspected since the last meeting, making 23 in total for 2017, down from 28 at this time last year. One was M0 and three M1. This makes 11 x M0, 12 x M1 for the year. I inspected 12, John Williams five, Denis Jenkins three, with Joy Broughton, Dick Smith and Stephen Prescott one each. The average points score is 166, with the highest being Hopeham Gusto with a score of 185.

Registrations were a real struggle this year but by being persistent with emails and phone calls the final figures are very good with an increase of 47 animals. There were several heifers born which I know weren't registered for various reasons, these would have added at least another 120

onto the list which if they had been registered would have been excellent.

Registrations for 2017 are 923 females, 95 of which were Grading animals, and 23 bulls, these were from 126 breeders this compares with 878 females and 28 bulls from 120 breeders for 2016.

I have visited 12 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 10 members over the two days which culminated with the Breeding Committee meeting at Tony Barratt's.

In addition to the Breeding Committee meeting I have been to two Show and Sales Committee meetings at Joy Broughton's, a Youth Committee meeting at Barton Mills, attended the Annual Dinner in Woodbridge, Northern area Herd Competition presentation at Tatton Park, the Winter Livestock Festival at Peterborough and a meeting at Shuttleworth College to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming Inter-College show training day.

Anthea and Jeff Daw have been accepted as Probationary Judges and their first appointments are as Probationers at the Suffolk and Norfolk Shows respectively.

Cattle sales through the Society have been very quiet through the winter, however hopefully things will start moving soon. Stephen Prescott has sold 20 heifers to a new member in Scotland, a few bulls are changing hands and there is growing interest in heifers. There are several batches of cattle for sale on the website, be it cows, heifers and bulls. It is sad to

APPLETON HERD

Reduction Sale (Following the coming to an end of the Farm Business Tenancy at Sandringham)

Including:

In calf Cows
Cows with calves at foot
In calf heifers and bulling heifers
Weaned heifer calves 2017 born
Young bulls by a variety of sires

BULLS including:

Appleton Romulus (M1) by Pettistree Badger, a Gedding Badger son
Tatton Wily Jack (M1) a Knepp Fantastic son
Dyffrin Edwin (M1) a Lordship Universal son
Appleton Ockavango (M0) an Uggeshall Brigadier son out of a Youngerellen Power Mover sired cow
Appleton Duke of York (M0) a Castlefields Spud son (who was by Foxearth Claret)
Appleton Collosus (M2) a Lavenham Sir Lancelot son

Red Tractor and Soil Association Certified

All enquiries to Tony Barratt 075 45 394 821
tony@sandringham-beefandlamb.co.uk





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

hear that Simon Phelps's Boseley herd is being dispersed due to a variety of reasons; however several of these have been purchased by Adrian Darby. Also sad is the decision by Alan Hewson to cease milking and cheese production. The milking portion of his herd, together with all the cheese making equipment is up for sale. 40 of the cows are due to calve March / April of which 12 are first calve heifers. 20 straws of semen have been sold to a commercial breeder in Dorset who has also joined the Society. A new member in Bedfordshire is looking for steers, he has previously bought cattle from David Blunt and Richard Dawes, is

impressed with them and wants to increase his numbers.

Sales through Livestock Markets have been disappointing with several batches of cattle being sold through Norwich and Colchester Markets making poor money. On a more positive note Simon Phelps sold last year's steer calves in Gloucester Market for very reasonable prices.

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

Membership Records 2017

New Members for election to membership – 24th February 2018

Total: 385 as at 23rd February 2018

Elected in 2017: 49

Resignations and Deaths: 30 Loss in 2017:

Re-instated: 4

Jenny Blyth, Dallinghoo House, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0LA
Robert Burrough, The Lodge, Loudham Hall, Pettistree, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0NN

Julie Rattray, Anchor Farm, Banbury Lane, Rothersthorpe, Northants, NN7 3JF
Jeff Daw, Angorfa, Llandyfriog, Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion, Wales, SA38 9HD

David Dobbin, Bancote Farm, Tixal, Stafford, ST18 0XX

Jack Anderson, Harpley Dams, Harpley, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6DR

David Button, 6 Hillrise, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2DN

Duncan Shell, Bushelhill, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire, Scotland, TD13 5YL

Rick Davies, Newton Lodge, Clifton Reynes, Olney, Bucks, MK46 5DS

Charlotte Coventry, Great Wood House, Brisley Road, North Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 5DN

Lee Dibble, Park View Bungalow, Bylaugh Park, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4RL

Celia Curtis, Three Firs Farm, Holwell Road, Kings Stag, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2BB

Sally Hunt, Watergate Farm, Hockcliffe, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 9LN



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

There seemed to be a confusion of ropes, then suddenly, with a tremendous bellow, Nathan was out. The plan was that there should be five men on each rope, one well out on either side,, so that he could not get at anyone. However, Nathan's sudden descent had caught the 'leaders' off their guard. There was only one on each rope, albeit for just a matter of seconds, but that was long enough! With an almighty bellow he charged blindly, crashing into the rear wheel of the wagon in which I sat, rocking it and half turning it as he did so. He raised his head and we were virtually eyeball to eyeball. Never before, or since, have I seen such venom and hate in an animal's eyes. Hesitantly I reached out and touched his head. I don't remember feeling fear, just a strange magnetism towards this magnificent creature. The 'leaders' had by then got themselves organised and Nathan was manoeuvred towards his new home.

Later, when he was safely ensconced and all was quiet, I asked Fred if I could get Nathan some food. The answer was in the affirmative and I rushed off for a large scoop of meal and several handfuls of linseed cake. I slid back the feeding hatch and looked in. Nathan was in the further section, pawing the ground and sending straw flying into the air. I called him. With a snort he turned and came lumbering up to the hatch, grumbling as he did so. I held out some linseed cake and, after a moment's uncertainty, a big rough tongue scooped it off my hand. I fed him the rest and then emptied the feed I had brought into his trough, talking to him while he was eating and for some while after he had finished. Slowly the hate went out of his eyes. Suddenly his great rough tongue came out and liked my arm as I leant against the hatch. It was like being rubbed with wet sandpaper! I was delighted. I turned to Fred, who had been standing nearby, quietly watching.

"He's lovely. I know we'll be friends. I don't think he's as bad as he's made out to be."

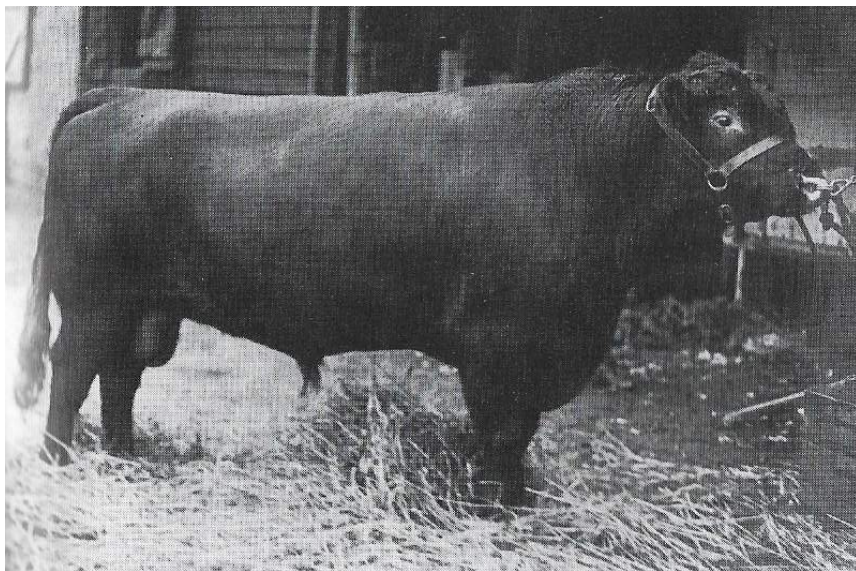
"You're probably right, but don't forget he's not Quartz. We mustn't take any risks and it'll take a long, long time to get him round."

I went home to lunch elated. I had a new friend and Fred had said 'we'. That meant that I was involved in Nathan's future.

The following year passed all too rapidly. I worked hard at my lessons and gloried in my afternoons at the farm. I had little interest in toys, except my model farm, and read avidly anything I could get my hands on connected with cattle. Life was good. Nathan was becoming more and more appeased and Fred could now enter his loose-box without first attracting him to the hatch with food and tying him up. I regularly groomed him when secured, standing on a bucket so that I could reach the top of his shoulders. Once, when Nathan lowered his head, I stepped off this and sat astride his neck, rather like a mahout. All he did was raise his head, lifting me high in the air, and continue chewing the cud. Fred, who was mucking out the further section, was not amused. He removed me from my lofty perch and, rightly, severely reprimanded me.

Red Poll bull, Bredfield Nathan, 1926

An excerpt taken from The Spacious Days



The big excitement was the forthcoming arrival of a Red Poll bull, Bredfield Nathan. He was no ordinary bull, for he was one of the top sires in the breed, and had also attained great success in the show-ring. But what made him particularly interesting to a small boy was the fact that he had nearly killed the herdsman who looked after him and had left the poor man crippled for life. Father heard that Nathan, because of his misdeeds, was to be slaughtered. After a quick consultation with Fred, an offer was made for Nathan; twice his meat value plus the cost of transport, providing his current owner would arrange delivery to Britwell. This was accepted and a new loose-box was hastily constructed. It had an entrance either end and a sliding door to divide it, worked by pulleys from the outside, so that the occupant could be shut in whichever section was desired. There was even a small hatch over the feeding trough, so at no time would it be necessary for anyone to enter the box.

The new bull-box was complete and the day of Nathan's arrival fixed. In those days the transportation by road of around one ton of bull from near Woodbridge in Suffolk to South Bucks was, in itself, something of an achievement. At last he arrived. My excitement was intense. I took up my position in a wagon, from where I would be able to see straight into the lorry when the ramp was down. As this happened the noise, half bellow, half roar, that came from the inmate was spine chilling. I had never heard such fury! Father and Fred were master-minding the unloading, aided by about ten men.

Students and Young Handlers

As a Society we are passionate about young people, and if you are a student, member of YFC or just someone who is interested in cattle we are here to help you.

Our investment in the next generation of farmers takes many forms and is constantly evolving under the direction of our Youth Committee, set up in 2017 by the society with the sole purpose of encouraging and facilitating the participation of young people with Red Poll cattle.

This year we have an exciting programme of events designed to give opportunities to participate in showing and competing.

And please do not worry if you have no experience of handling cattle or do not know anyone, **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

Each year we set aside financial help for colleges who enter cattle and take students to some of the country's top agricultural shows.

Last year Easton and Otley & Easton, Shuttleworth, Writtle, Caple Manor all showed cattle and many of their students came along and excelled with their showing skills ... and had a great time as well!

It really was a sight to feel proud of to see showing rings full of students (many who had never showed an animal before) enjoying and excelling themselves with Red Poll cattle.

This years' Diary of events;

19th April—Inter College Challenge, Shuttleworth College, Bedfordshire

13th May—South Suffolk Show, Ampton Racecourse, Red Poll Youngstock Show, Young Handler Classes

25th May—Beef Expo, Shrewsbury, Red Poll stand in attendance

26th May—Shropshire Show, Red Poll classes

26/27th May—Herts County Show, Redbourn Herts. Red Poll classes.

30th May/1st June—Suffolk Show, Ipswich, Red Poll classes, Inter-college showing competition, young handler classes

15th/16th/17th June—3 Counties Show, National Red Poll Show, Breed classes, young handling classes, hospitality and lots more!

27th/28th June—Norfolk Show, Red Poll classes, inter college challenges, young handler classes.

This is not an exhausted list of events and more will be added. If you have an event that you would like to add **LET US KNOW!**

If you would like any help at any event or would like some help in learning about showing cattle please contact:

David Hunt—davidhunt@watergatefarmco.uk

or the secretary Ray Bowler—secretary@redpoll.org or 01245 600032



Dick Smith MRCVS
President 2017 – 2018



I have been asked to write something about myself and my life with Red Polls for the Newsletter. To start with I was born in the summer of

1940, just prior to the

Battle of Britain, in Ilford, Essex, to parents who at the time were considered rather old to start a family, and I was to be their only child which I never found a handicap in life, pets and books becoming my friends.

With the bombing of the East End we moved out to what was, at that time, countryside Hutton, near Brentwood in Essex. Growing up there I enjoyed the freedom of roaming the local farmland and I attended the local village school. I must have been about eight when I thought I would like to become a farmer, but decided the next best thing was to be a vet. On reflection I think it was the loss of a much loved family dog to canine distemper with the most distressing symptoms which motivated me to follow the veterinary career path. My

mother, a teacher at the local school, was noted for her success in getting pupils through their 11 plus, but unknown to me, I was being primed to take an entrance examination for Christ's Hospital, the Blue Coat School in Horsham, West Sussex. I somehow satisfied the examiners and before I knew it, at the age of 10 I was on the train to

Horsham. These early years were tough, sleeping in a large dormitory on bed boards and few creature comforts, but life did improve. It was very much the sporting activities that left me with such fond memories of my school days and they did have a school farm. I did get the A levels which enabled me to get a place at the Royal Veterinary College where student life and more rugby and cricket took over. The team spirit stood me in good stead for the future in Veterinary Practice.

My veterinary life started in 1965 in a mixed practice in Colchester, where I enjoyed very much the cattle and pig work. However, by the early 70's I had married Rita, whom I had met whilst at College and we had by then started a family. In those days the only way forward was to get into a Practice and become a partner and I was very fortunate to get the job in Woodbridge, which led to me becoming a partner in 1973. Philip Ryder-Davies soon joined the practice and we were to become partners for over 30 years. Philip was

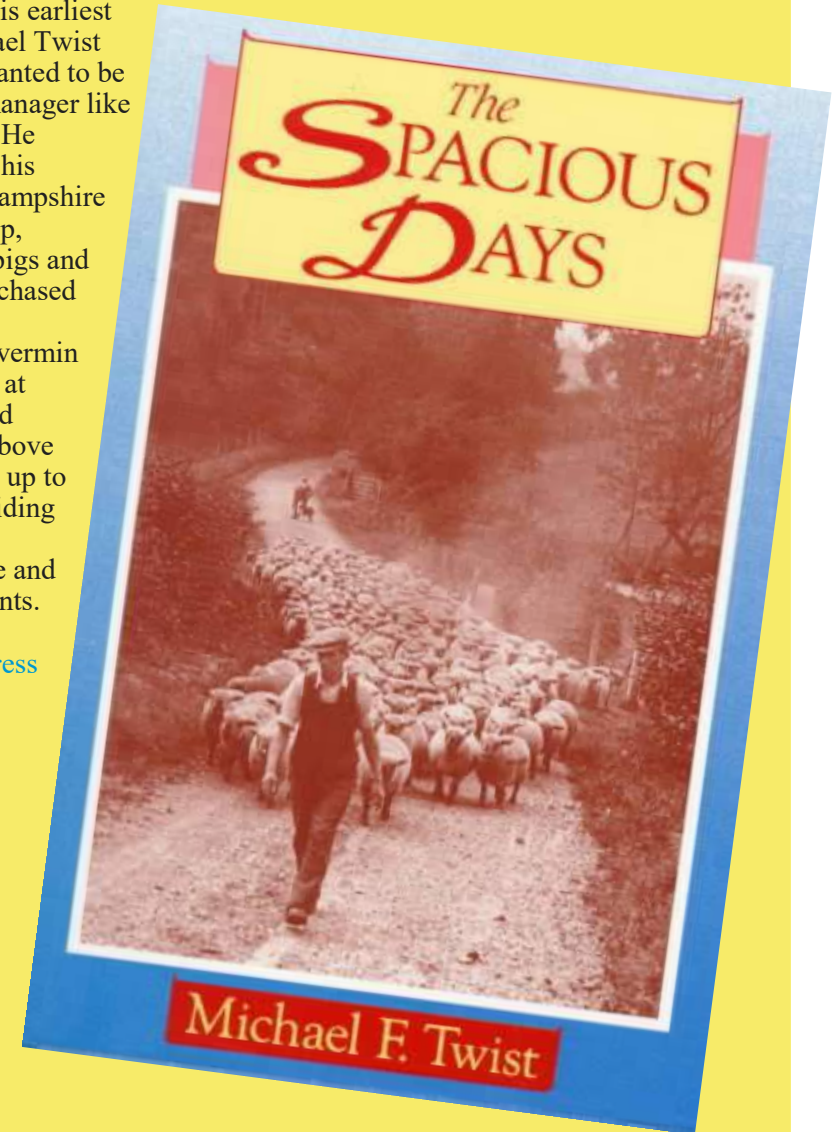


This account of growing up on an estate at Burnham in Buckinghamshire in the 1920s and '30s recalls an agriculture in which there was a large labour force, time to do a job well and time to talk, chaff and enjoy a bit of shooting.

There are tales about real people and real places providing an insight into days long gone when a caring relationship and natural balance still existed between man and nature. Indeed, for the author, nature in the form of pet foxes, stoats, squirrels and badgers was an intimate part of home life.

From his earliest days Michael Twist knew he wanted to be an estate manager like his father. He revelled in his world of Hampshire Down sheep, Berkshire pigs and cattle. He chased poachers, controlled vermin and helped at haytime and harvest. Above all he grew up to have an abiding love of the countryside and its inhabitants.

Farming Press
Books



The Red Poll Archive

The Red Poll Cattle Society Council has recently set up an archive committee to organise and preserve our many artefacts and documents. These have been in various places and it was decided to get everything together and hopefully find a permanent home for it that members might be able to access.

In the meantime we thought we would run a 'from the Archive' section in the newsletter and share some of the interesting documents that have come to light and have a glimpse into times past.

The letter that prompted this idea:

Dear Mr Ryder-Davies,

Would I be right in thinking you are secretary of the Red Poll Society? If not, I'm sure you know who is. Has the Society any form of archives of the breed? If it has, I have a large photograph of a bull, Bredfield Nathan, winner of numerous prizes in the show ring, including 3rd at the Royal in 1926, which I would be pleased to give you if you would like it.

My father was agent-cum-farm manager for Edward Clifton-Brown and ran his estate in Buckinghamshire for 30 years. For a number of years there was a Red Poll herd on the estate, and Suffolk horses. The Clifton-Browns are from an East Anglian family. Nathan was a 'naughty boy' and either killed or very seriously maimed a herdsman and was to go to the butcher. Father heard about this and offered the owner, I think his name was Captain Savage, twice Nathan's meat value if he would deliver him to the estate, for he was one of the leading sires of the times and, in due course, Nathan arrived at the Burnham Grove Estate. So if it is of interest to the Society, or indeed to you personally, you are more than welcome to have it. I shall be collecting the photograph from the publishers of my new book 'The Spacious Days', in which Nathan features, incidentally the herd book numbers is on the back of the picture, next week.

I enclose a leaflet about the book in case you might be interested, it should be available through any bookshop.

*Yours sincerely
Michael F Twist*

at the time secretary of both the Suffolk Horse and the Red Poll Cattle Societies, and it was very much due to his influence that I was encouraged to keep Red Polls.

We had moved into Church Farm, Pettistree in 1978 and I started calf rearing in that October. On reflection not the best decision. At that time there were few local Red Poll breeders. I had always thought highly of Miss Wyles' cows which I would have passed when driving through Coddham. I regret I was never able to get one of her heifers to start up my own small herd. It was on Philip's recommendation that in 1980 we drove over to John Groves' Farm at Lakenheath and came home with our first Red Poll heifer in the back of our Ford Cortina estate. This calf, Heathbridge Pippins Cumulus, by Lowpark Apple Pippin became our foundation cow from which all my Red Polls have originated. On reflection she was always on the small side, but did have an excellent udder, and certainly her progeny did milk very well.

At the time the semen I was using was mainly Datchworth Concord and Sandilands Romeo but I began to search for sires that could produce a beefier type of progeny. Initially I used Pinpur Intercontinental. These calves did grow better but I felt the females lost some milk and resulted in Diana calling my cows 'common'. Then the Australian bulls appeared on the scene. Initially I tried Youngerellen Power Mover, who did add to the performance and then Eurimbla Gladstone followed adding conformation and muscularity to the progeny. At the time the myostatin

status was not known and although my Signet figures were better this could have been due to the M1 factor. On reflection, would I have done differently? Probably not, since I was endeavouring to get a better performance. I did continue with Signet for several years which I found helpful in my selection of breeding animals and by giving some figures for the AI bull stud, such as Gedding Badger and Onenfawr Prince. I have been privileged to have served as President in 2004 and again 2017, and I have particularly enjoyed the time spent with the breeding committee and as a judge, meeting people with such enthusiasm for the breed.

Over the years Red Polls have given me a lot of pleasure, just keeping them and having their companionship and, when their time has come to go, leaving us with the best tasting meat you could wish for.

Thanks to all our dedicated breeders who are responsible for keeping this breed in a far better position than it was in the 1970's.

Dick Smith



G.T. Goff Ltd. – Foxburrow Farm, North Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk

I recently spent a couple of hours looking around the Elmham herd of G.T. Goff Ltd. Established in 2014 the herd currently consist of 86 cows and heifers to calve in April/May and associated youngstock which in total comprises some 200 animals. The original animals were purchased from a variety of breeders including cattle from the Appleton, Brook Hall Bramfield, Cools, Fletchers, Netherglade, Uggeshall and Wherry herds. There are currently three senior herd sires, Appleton Andronikus, Constantine & Demetrius. Three younger Appleton bulls have recently been purchased as the herd grows, Appleton Arkanatan, Duke of Cambridge and Remus. The herd is managed by Stockman Lee Dibble and overseen by the owner's daughter Charlotte Coventry.

All cattle are out-wintered on light sandy soils with the cows being fed big bale haylage and fodder beet, youngstock being strip grazed on stubble turnips with haylage as required. No concentrates or other feeds are fed. Calving is all outside with the cattle in one group. Summer grazing is on marsh land spread over a fairly extensive area, with the cows in groups of about 30 each with a bull. Bulling heifers are in smaller groups with the young bulls so as not to overwork them in their first year. Yearling cattle are grazed according to field sizes on a variety of sites.



Calves are weaned in early December and run together on the stubble turnips.

Male calves are all castrated at birth and reared to finish at about 26-28 months of age, all being fed forage only. In the future steers may be sold as stores in the spring if a suitable outlet can be found. This will then make it possible to keep more breeding cows.

A mobile cattle handling system is employed which combined with a livestock trailer, which can transport up to 16 cows at a time, makes the handling and movement of the cattle a simple and efficient task.

I was particularly impressed with the condition of the cattle, the cows were in perfect condition for the system they were on. The 2017 born group of youngstock was perhaps the best I have seen for some time, they were uniform in growth, condition and type, were quiet, approachable and just a pleasure to view.

Thank you to Lee and Charlotte for taking the time to show me around.

Ray Bowler