



Newsletter No. 120

Summer 2021



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

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



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Newsletter No. 120

Summer 2021

President:

J.S. Butler

President Elect:

Q.G. Edwards

Chairman:

J.R. Williams

Secretary:

R.J. Bowler

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Dual purpose Red Polls

Charity Registration No. 213132
Company Registration No. 27159

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Year Letter

The year letter for 2021 registrations is L

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.

Next copy date— October 16th

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

Steers are always wanted.

Membership Subscriptions as from

1st January 2021

Registering: £50

Associate: £25

Overseas Registering: £75 in sterling

Overseas Associate: £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

Secretary's Report – 24th April 2021

There is one new member for election at this meeting, 01087 E & J Greed, Fortescue Farm, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5JN who is a registering member. There are several others hopefully in the pipeline. There are 351 members. The makeup of the membership is therefore: 254 Registering/Life Registering, 79 Associate/Life Associate, 7 Overseas and 11 Student/Junior. Since the last meeting I have sent out 6 information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

30 straws of semen have been sold since the last meeting, 20 of which have been Pinguis Jacob to Chris Dedman.

Ten bulls have been registered so far this year, all since the last meeting. John Williams has inspected four with myself doing five and Mark Cheetham one. Average points score for these has been 172 points. There are a few applied for but inspections not yet having taken place. Myostatin and Igenity reports have been received for five of them, three were carried out last year as calves, the others have come back as M1s, the remaining five have been sent off but results aren't back yet.

It's far too early to report on heifer registrations but out of interest I have received 26 so far.

Since the last meeting I have been out and about visiting members, some new, some existing and some potential ones. I have been to see new member Robin Moxon in Kent, Oliver Paul in Ipswich who I have persuaded to back register his cattle and will keep up to date with registrations in the future, new member George Young in Basildon who eventually hopes to start a small milking herd, John Hare in Docking who I haven't met for many years as Tony Barratt was running his herd but he rang me up to ask if I could call in to see him. Whilst in the area I called in to see new member Nick Padwick to have a look around their 1000 acre Re-wilding project near to Hunstanton. The same day I called in to see new member Nicola Goodings. She has never kept cattle before and I have say I feel a bit sorry for her as things haven't been as plain sailing as they could have been.

John Williams and I went to see Alec Foster, Towcester, to look at the young bull calf he has had born to the contract mating carried out last year, a very nice Mistley Linking Licias bull calf. Whilst there five x 15/16mth old young bulls were inspected in the hope that they will be sold for breeding, two have already been sold. We then went on to Andrew Kirk's, Leicester to look at their contract mated calves, it's far too soon to say how these animals will perform but one of the bull calves by Underhills Likely Lad looks promising. I have been to Lady Getty's in Lavenham to inspect a group of young bulls: Five have already been sold for breeding. I have to say the whole group of 22 looked excellent animals. Other than the five mentioned the rest have already been sent for slaughter.

John Williams and myself have also been to inspect the two bulls mentioned at the last Breeding Committee meeting as potential ones to have semen

collected from. These were at Newport Pagnell and Meppershall. More about these in the Breeding Committee report.

Cattle sales have been steady since the last meeting, with several bulls changing hands.

It would appear that steers are in short supply so if anyone knows of any that are available then please let me know.

Ray Bowler

Pinguis Jacob semen has been released to Genus so it is available for purchase



IT'S BACK!

RED POLL CATTLE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

30th October 2021

To be held at:

Mercure White Hart Hotel,
1 St. John Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2SD.
01722 327476 Sarah.Archer@accor.com

We are very pleased to confirm that the Annual Dinner is back and will be held on 30th October 2021 at the above hotel in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Full details and booking arrangements are included with this newsletter.

Terina Booker

The Suffolk Punch Trust have had a disaster with their one Red Poll heifer. She calved a heifer calf a few weeks ago which for some unknown reason then died after a few hours.

The day after the heifer became very ill and subsequently died despite efforts from the vet and staff. Apparently she had some form of internal haemorrhage which is very rare and untreatable.

Philp Ryder Davies phoned me to ask if I knew of anyone who would be willing to donate a heifer, or cow to the Trust. I suggested that he write something for the Newsletter which is below.



**THE SUFFOLK
PUNCH TRUST**

Following the disaster with the heifer we discussed the possibility that a kind and generous person might give one to the Trust and you suggested that I write a piece about the Trust.

The Suffolk Punch Trust was set up as a Charity in 2002 to save the Colony Stud of rare Suffolk horses and then continue to run it. This stud has been continuously bred on the same site since 1880. It has been through several owners the last being the Prison Service who had owned it since 1938 but was having to sell it so the Charity raised two million pounds to buy the horses, their equipment and the farm. The importance of the stud is that the loss of this large group of horses would have had a serious effect on the breed. In addition, these horses are of a very good type, three stallions are kept and can be used by any breeder, and modern breeding routines are used to ensure that as many mares as possible are got in foal.

As the Trust is open to the public a wide variety of things need to be on display. All the other Suffolk breeds of livestock are kept including a Red Poll, there is an Exhibition Hall with a large number of things to illustrate different aspects of life in Suffolk with a display about Red Polls, and there is



a large collection of horse-drawn vehicles and implements. There is a woodland walk and a garden stocked with horticultural varieties of plants all bred in Suffolk. Thank you.

Philip Ryder Davies

Grazing fodder beet

Back in March 2020 I was invited to a meeting with a grazing consultant, Marc Jones, who had been to New Zealand to study how they strip graze fodder beet. Working with Mark is a New Zealand advisor and all-round fodder beet guru, Jim Gibbs, and seed company KWS, they are looking for arable farms to try grazing fodder beet. With the suggestion that East Anglia's large, reasonably flat, well drained arable fields were perfect for grazing fodder beet. The return of large amounts of manure and organic matter would also be a huge benefit to the soils.



We used the back fence to feed out the silage to stop it being trampled

We have a limited amount of shed space on the farm which means we only bring in the in-calf cows over winter, everything else must out winter. We have tried several

methods of out wintering from bale grazing, to strip grazing fodder rape. This gives me an opportunity to integrate the cattle into the arable side of the farm, something that I want to increase as there are benefits for both sides.

The figures they are achieving on fodder beet in New Zealand look fantastic and it has quickly become the way to grow and finish cattle there. Crops of 30t dry matter are the norm and crops of 40t are regularly achieved. Their estimated cost of production per hectare was fairly high at £1126/ha, including rent and contracting, but per kg of dry matter is fairly low 5.63p/kg for a 20t DM crop, only 3.75p/kg for a 30tDM crop. Feed budgeting is 2.2% of bodyweight plus 1kg wastage, you also need to feed a little forage for fibre to aid rumen health

(1kgDM for <400kg, 2kg for >400kg animals).

The achievable cattle growth rates were also pretty

impressive with 400+kg animals targeting 1.3kg/day and smaller 240kg animals aiming for 0.8kg/day, more than double what is expected from grazing brassicas. They also found that fodder beet grazed animals have a 3-4% increase in killing out percentage. The figures looked good, even with the caveat that it normally takes several years for people to get it spot on.

After quickly popping to see some farms with cows on fodder beet we decided to give it a go. We planted 8 ha of fodder beet with 3 ha of grass Layback on a field which the lambs had just finished grazing stubble turnips.



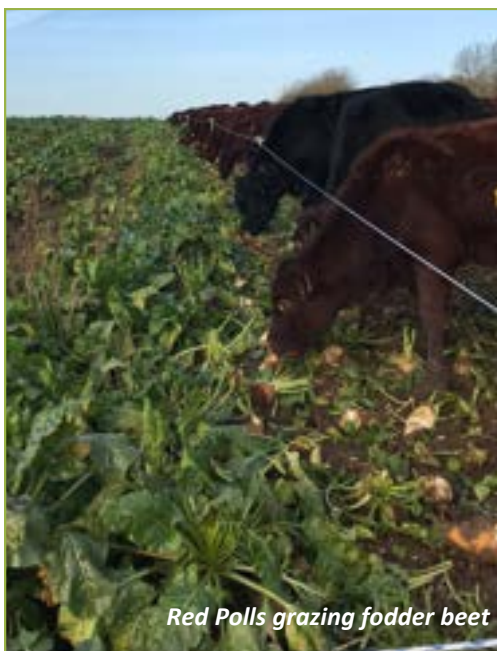
The long walk of shame for some of the escapees!



Red Polls grazing in the snow

The intention being to finish 100 store cattle from October to February. It was a very difficult dry spring to establish the beet with the long period of dry weather really hampering growth and the crop was hit by the virus' like our sugar beet (20-25% reduction in sugar beet yield). As result the estimated crop was much less than we had hoped for. Fodder beet grow into the ground first and then grow up out of the ground. There was a lot less bulb all together and the proportion sticking out of the ground was probably only 50-60%. This would mean it would be harder for the cattle to knock over the bulb while eating it and were likely to graze it from the top down to the ground leaving the bit underground. We also later discovered that smaller crops are also less palatable. As we were a little uncertain of the crop we had we decided to move to growing cattle rather than finishing cattle as we did not want to run out of beet before the cattle are finished. We ended up using 30 of our own weaned calves, buying 28 weaned calves from the dispersal of the Essex County Council Legacy herd and having 22 from Roger Beecroft on Bed and Breakfast.

Transitioning the cattle onto AdLib fodder beet is the most important time in achieving the highest feed intakes and DLW gains. We started by feeding some chopped up beet whilst they were



Red Polls grazing fodder beet

on grass, once they had got used to it we moved to whole beet. We also used this time to train them to electric fencing. After a week of this we moved them to the fodder beet field to start grazing in situ. Unfortunately this did not go as smoothly with a mass break out the first night! The cattle bolted through both the electric and barbed wire fences. Catching them up was not helped by thick fog. However we managed to get 79 back in only for the exact thing to happen again on the second night into even thicker fog! We believe they were being spooked by badgers and as they were only on a 24 meter strip of grass were pushed into the corner and through the fence. At times like these you realise how generous people are, with dozens of people on foot, quad and even on horse back out in the fog looking for them. We also realised how few fences there are in Cambridgeshire! We finally caught up the escapees over the next couple of days with the most adventurous being 6 kilometers away!

We knew that the transition period is the most important time for getting good growth so were a little concerned that our transition period had been disrupted. However, we persevered and changed the shape of the Layback to an L shape to give the cattle an escape route we seem to have solved that problem and thankfully there were no more escapes.

The transition period from grass to AdLib beet supplemented with one kgDM silage a day took about three weeks. The beet was 100 metres wide and on the first day we gave them one row, roughly 1kgDM per head. They were shut onto the beet until they finished this row before letting them back onto the grass and some baled silage. We added a row every other day until they are eating AdLib, about 10 rows. The aim is to reach the point where there is 25% left from the previous day, 10% from the day before and 5% from the day before that. This means the cattle have always got free access to beet which promotes the highest growth rates.



Red Polls grazing fodder beet

The winter ended up being a foul wet winter but the cattle coped well and moving them every day they didn't disappear into the mud. It can't be said that Red Polls aren't hardy.

The daily fence shifts were actually easier than expected, by using two wires leap frogging ahead of each other. Putting them back up down the rows of beet it was easy to make sure they had the correct amount in front of them and to adjust by adding or removing rows to keep the 25-10-5 residues. The harder part was the feeding of the forage supplement. To start with we tried feeding it out in ring feeders but trying to split 80kgDM across enough ring feeders to allow them all access was impossible and we were definitely over feeding the supplement. We ended up using a straw spreader to slowly meter a trail of silage that they could all access, this was much more effective but prone to blocking. With the help and advice of Marc we learned a lot and slowly fine-tuned the system to increase performance. The growth rates for the first 50 days were 0.34kg per day compared to 0.78kg per day for the last 50 days

In all the beet held the 80 calves for 141 days and the average growth rate was 0.44kgLW/day, which while not hitting the lofty heights that the Kiwis are achieving, apparently is quite reasonable for a first attempt. We certainly feel we learnt a lot about both growing the crop and getting the cattle to eat it.

That being said this spring has been no easier than the last and this year's crop is currently behind where we were last year! But hopefully now the warmth and showers have arrived it will grow well, the increased total nitrogen and later applications will hopefully grow a bigger crop. We are also told that there will be less virus carrying aphids this year. We have planted more grass with the beet this year with the plan of strip grazing the grass with the beet. This will supply the supplementary forage so that we won't have to feed silage making the day-to-day management easier. Overall, I think the concept of beet as part of the arable rotation works, it might just take a few more years to get to where the New Zealanders are. It is certainly far more pleasurable growing and grazing a crop of beet than a crop of OSR. By using stubble turnips the winter before planting the beet we have managed to get two 'crops' of manure for the soil which should really help our light land. We plan to further integrate cattle into our arable rotation, possibly with herbal lays as a break crop, the future of OSR and sugar beet are in doubt on our farm so even dad is coming round to the idea of grazing break crops. We have certainly seen the advantages of rotational grazing on our permanent pasture to improve soil health and make best use of the sometimes paltry amounts of rain we get in the east. Unfortunately the Open day we had planned last winter had to be cancelled due to Covid but hopefully we will be able to have one this winter for anyone wanting to see it in action.

*Sam Taylor
Little Linton Farm*

THE CASE FOR OLDER BULLS!

The extract below is from a Red Poll Journal of 1928 and shows that after nearly 100 years we are still discussing many of the same subjects and the arguments for and against are probably the same as well! Obviously veterinary practises have advanced considerably and AI was not in use but I thought this was of interest as the principles are still relevant.

Value of Senior Bulls

To the Editor.

Sir, It will not be out of place, I hope, for me to draw attention of Red Poll breeders and all interested for the welfare of the breed, to the great desirability of retaining in their herds for future service good proved senior bulls. It frequently happens that bulls are disposed of before a reasonable number of their offspring have grown to maturity, thereby preventing the breeder estimating the sire's real value. It takes two or three years after his stock begins to arrive before an opinion can be formed of his merits. It is interesting to note this last year or two that a few discerning Red Poll breeders have had the courage of their convictions, and purchased at substantial figures outstanding proved senior bulls to head their herds. This is all for the good of the breed, and the purchasers will, I feel sure, be the gainers of their action.

I am, &c.,

J. G. Gray

Rosehill, Coventry, November 15th 1928

The Senior Red Poll Sire

Harefield Clinker 1100 is the most senior bull of the breed alive today for he is now in his 13th year. There are few of his equal, and none of his peer. The accompanying picture of him was from a photograph taken on the 13th November, at which time he was running and sleeping out. It shows him in ordinary working condition. Harefield Clinker is perfectly quiet and excellent at service, and is as active as most bulls a quarter of his age. A glance at this picture of him should satisfy the keenest observer that Harefield Clinker is a true and typical dual-purpose Red Poll bull. All his stock without exception are of excellent quality, and can be recognised as his offspring.



Why Destroy Old Bulls

One leading owner who has been associated with the breed for thirty years or more was invited to express his opinion, and it is in the direction of a greater appreciation of the value of older bulls.

‘We are too prone to knocking out the old sires and putting in their place young and untried bulls. A bull is now said to be too old at three years. Such animals I contend have only just been tried, and it is a question whether their late owners know anything approaching their full capabilities as stock-getters.’

As is also pointed out, ‘the fashion of the present day to discard anything in the bovine world approaching four years of age in the male line, such stock are being lost to the breed. It is admitted that a cow is at her best at eight years, when she will give about her biggest yield of milk. Why should not the opposite sex be equally at his best at this age?’

There is still a case for this in the modern day as bulls are often finished with when their heifers are entering the herd and the bull has to move on. But this can often mean that the youngstock have not gone on to produce their own stock and the true results of the bulls breeding cannot be tested either for producing good stock or for failing to live up to expectations. Judging a bull without seeing his progeny can be a calculated guess! Although the majority of stock are killed for meat, getting the right heifers for the future of the breed should be a priority in a breed that is known for its maternal qualities.

Sally Grimwood



Canute Orange County 'Jaffa' at 15 years old

Red Poll Cattle

The perfect suckler cow

Our customers are raving about the Red Poll beef, it can't be beaten on taste or tenderness and they keep coming back for more. Once they have tasted it nothing else will do.

*Farmer Barnes' Butchery,
Hethersett,
Norwich*









Native Breed
High meat to bone ratio
Dual purpose
Naturally polled
Easy calving
Ideal house cow
Will cross suckle
Hardy
Docile
Long lived

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THE RED POLL CATTLE F

Los Manantiales is a farm with a rich history, located in Paso del Parque del Daymán, Paysandú, Uruguay. Dedicated to the breeding of Red Poll cattle, Criollos horses and Australian Merino sheep, it has belonged to the Jones family for many years and was passed down from generation to generation. Today it belongs to Guillermo Pérez Jones, son of Sylvia Jones.

It all started in 1890 when Jonathan E Jones came to Uruguay from his native England and occupied land in "Puntas del Daymán" which belonged to his predecessor John Williams. There he met Mr Enrique Chaplin who lived in Paysandú and had a dairy farm with Red Poll cows and it was from him that Mr Jones bought the first cows from 1905 onwards. Mr Chaplin imported pedigree Red Poll cattle from England since 1901. At Los Manantiales we had pedigree cattle until 1989.

Over the years and seeing the great qualities of the breed for shallow basalt fields and producing good heavy steers, dual purpose cows, beef and milk, Jones decided in 1954 to import the first bulls directly from England. Among them, the Kirton Chresler from Paul Stancort's Kirton Herd, two more bulls and three pregnant cows.



FROM LOS MANANTIALES



When the breed was registered at the Rural Association of Uruguay, from Los Manantiales together with the Red Poll Breeders Society of Uruguay, semen began to be imported from Australia and the United States and this is how these cattle was developed with good kilograms, good finish for the job, and resistance for its pigmentation and hoof.

Today the farm's production system is made up of the breeding of approximately 500 cattle, with the sale of male calves at weaning in April for fattening. Cows are sold fat for the slaughterhouse or for fattening if they do not reach an ideal weight. Regarding the breeding, we manage a closed herd with the incorporation of genetics (Australian and American) for the insemination that is carried out at two years of age of the first breeding heifers. The other cows, about 230 in total, are joined with the bulls, discarding the failed cows.

It is an honor for us to be able to share a little of what we do here in Uruguay with so many breeders of the Red Poll breed and to keep in contact with everyone in order to get up to date with our cattle. Many thanks to Sally Grimwood for being interested in our farm.

Jimena Perez





Cull Cows required

Society Member Matthew Wilshire has set up a small business selling meat from cull cows. Matthew is the ex-stockman of Lady Getty's in Suffolk. It could well be a good way of selling your cull cows without them going to market or a large commercial abattoir. They will be slaughtered at Fowler's, Burnham-on-Crouch and Matthew will collect direct from your farm.

Please see below:

"I am after cull cows, preferably who haven't had a calf at foot for a fair while so there is some condition on them. However I would consider any cull cows, especially throughout the summer as I will have a little bit of grazing I can use to finish. I've used cows so far up to 14 years old, so age is not a stumbling block. Best way to contact me is via email address matthew@skylarkproduce.com or phone number - 07825959497."



“Gilly Greed has recently established the Fortescue Herd of Red Polls in Devon ”

Great British Beef Week focuses on sustainability

British suckler beef farmers received industry-wide recognition with their support for sustainable production practices being the focal point of Great British Beef Week 2021.

The campaign took place between 23-30 April 2021, with organisers Ladies in Beef (LiB) once again supported by AHDB, as well as Red Tractor, National Farmers Union, The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Hybu Cig Cymru.

Great British Beef Week (GBBW) 2021 proudly showcased the strides being taken by British farmers in the sphere of sustainability, with Britain continuing to maintain its position, as among the most sustainable in the world.

The campaign highlighted the innovative and sustainable farming methods from suckler producers across Britain.

Jilly Greed, who co-founded Ladies in Beef with NFU president Minette Batters, said: “Great British Beef Week enables us to shine a light on all aspects of the beef production process. Our farmers are passionate about the beef they produce and are committed to delivering high quality red meat for consumers to continue to enjoy.

“Managing land in a sustainable way is a fundamental responsibility of the modern-day farmer. This includes farming regeneratively, improving grasslands and paddock grazing, planting trees, maintaining wildflowers for the bee population, or harvesting rainwater for cattle to drink. British beef production has a carbon footprint of just less than half the global average, and reflects the hugely important and positive work our farmers are putting in day-by-day. It’s vital that we keep bringing attention to the ways our producers are respecting the land, while also producing the foods we enjoy eating.”

www.ladiesinbeef.org.uk

Launch of the new Grassroots Online Registry


Announcing the launch of the new look Grassroots Online Registry which replaces the old Pedeweb. The registry can be accessed via the Society website or direct at www.grassroots.co.uk/redpoll.html using your normal Breed Society Member No and password. It gives access to the whole Society database and allows you to 'Manage Your Animal Records'


Non members can access the site using:

User Name : **GUEST** and Password: **Welcome99**

The system opens with a list of all the animals in your registered ownership

Click on an animal to view its details, pedigree and progeny list

Click on the magnifying glass  (top left) to search the whole database

Click on the menu  (top right) to make changes

Click on this magnifying glass  (top left) to search for people

If you have animals for sale - please go to the menu and flag them 'For Sale'.

This information will not have come across from the old system.

If you want to **add images**, please download the Mobile App and upload images from your phone.

The Registry is very straight forward to use but a '**step by step**' guide is available on the Grassroots website home.grassroots.co.uk

And the new Grassroots Mobile App



All your own animal details, in your pocket, even when you have no internet or mobile access. Free for the first month, and then a small charge of £1.99 per month (less than the cost of an ear tag) or £14.99 for the year.

Download the **Grassroots Systems Mobile App from the Appstore or Google Playstore**. Create an App User Name (must be at least 8 characters) and your own password. Then sync the details of all the animals you own using your normal Breed Society Member No and password. If you keep other Grassroots breeds, they can be added to the same copy of the App.

It is very straight forward to use but a 'step by step' guide is available on the Grassroots website <https://home.grassroots.co.uk/>

From within the App you can:

- Add images - for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry
- Add notes - for individual animals or groups, including mating records, or reminders
- **Report changes direct to the registry 'on the go'**
 - **Sales** - and keep a list of all your buyers
 - **Births** - and apply to Notify or Register
 - **Deaths** - and sales for meat
 - **Flag animals 'For Sale'** - to appear in the Online Registry
 - **Link photos** - for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry

Secretary's Travels February – May 2021

Well what another strange few months it's been with regards to the pandemic, wet weather and then dry weather. I have been limited in my visits to members basically as to where I can get to and from within the day to avoid overnight stays.

17th February – Sam Taylor, Little Linton Farms, Cambridgeshire.

Sam has been carrying out a trial out-wintering Red Poll stores on Fodder beet. He has had some 80 head of cattle. I wanted to see the system in its full winter clothes so to speak. Sam has written an article about the trial elsewhere in this



publication so I'll say no more other than to say I found the visit very informative and interesting. Whilst there I also looked at his senior stock bull Nobodys Kingdom. I have to say what an excellent animal this is. He has been out-wintered but still looks in excellent condition.

Wendy and Andrew Houston – Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

Wendy and Andrew had five or six bulling heifers for sale so I went to see them. They were well grown quality cattle. They also want to sell their herd sire Ladlers Lord Gruffalo. He is a really good bull, very quiet and will make an excellent sire for another breeder. Only for sale due to daughters coming into the herd. Subsequent to the visit they have decided to use Gruffalo again and have sold the heifers.

3rd March – Robin Moxon, Swanley, Kent.

Robin is a new member to the Society having acquired some 200 acres of scrub land. Last year he purchased a few cattle from a small herd dispersal in Essex and a few older cows. He has subsequently purchased 14 yearling heifers and 18 steers.

The area has been fenced, no mean feat, the cattle out-wintered on straw and brewers grains looked good and it will be interesting to see how things progress in the future. The aim is for the cattle to be kept on a holistic grazing regime. The land is in a poor state at present but Robin has plans to improve the land to enable his plans to come to fruition. He has also purchased a bull, Hepworth Salix, who I'm sure will do a first class job in the herd.





Tithebarn Ltd, suppliers of mineral and vitamin supplements, protein concentrates, forage preservatives, feed blocks and mineral licks.

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

5th March – Shuttleworth College, Bedford.

Anne-Marie Hamilton had contacted me to say she had five or six bulling heifers for sale. Charles Clack, Farm Manager at Writtle College, has formed a new herd of cattle and was looking for some more heifers. I took him with me, he purchased two of the heifers which go back to the original Lordship breeding, Lordship being the prefix of the Writtle College Herd, the other four have subsequently been sold as well.

10th March - Joe Hanks, Essex Wildlife Trust, Tollesbury Wick, Essex.

Essex Wildlife Trust have decided to purchase their own cattle to graze the reserve at Tollesbury rather than rely on outside graziers. They have purchased 32 in-calf cows from the dispersed Salthouse Herd earlier in the year. The cattle have overwintered on the reserve and are due to calve in April. I walked what seemed miles to view the herd on the marsh, I have to say I was pleasantly surprised to see how well they looked on what appeared to be little grazing but they have access to nearly 1000 acres.



Oliver Paul – Freston Farming, Ipswich

Oliver manages The Suffolk Food Hall with his cousin Robert, but have recently split the farming side of the business. Oliver wanted to sort out the cattle that he owned and to make sure all the herd were registered with the Society, something which hasn't been carried out over the past few years. By going through the records I was able to trace all the cattle and carry out late registrations so that all the herd are now fully registered. The herd looks in very good condition with bull Woldsmen Guardian looking particularly impressive.



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—01245600032/07906761206 secretary@redpoll.co.uk

Area: South Suffolk, Essex, Greater London, Kent, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall

Richard Brookes—07940547180 richardsjbrookes@gmail.com

Area: Norfolk, North Suffolk

Joy Broughton—07961428431 zulu623@gmail.com

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

John Williams—07860269044 jrw2@btinternet.com

Area: Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland and Cumberland, North Wales

Anthea Daw—07508136409 antheadaw@live.com

Area: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, South Wales

John Anderson—07833664121 borenichjohn@gmail.com

Area: Scotland

If you wish to buy or sell cattle you should contact Ray Bowler on 01245600032 or 07906761206 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.

If you have any problems or queries please feel free to contact: John Williams (Chairman) 07860269044 jrw2@btinternet.com



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11th March – George Young, Fobbing, Essex.

New member George is planning to set up a milking herd of Red Polls selling the milk through vending machines and or making artisan cheese. He had purchased in-calf heifers from the Ladlers Herd in the autumn, these were calving as I visited and looked excellent. Milking won't start until next year. He is eventually looking to have a herd of about 40 milking cows which will be excellent news. Subsequent to my visit he has purchased 12 bulling heifers and bull Wheatfield Kestrel. I'm really looking forward to this herd developing.



18th March – Nick Padwick, Ken Hill Estate, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Last year Nick, who is Estate Manager at Ken Hill, purchased 36 cattle from the Essex grazing Project which has unfortunately ceased its operations. The cattle are due to calve March/April. The whole estate has been put over to re-wilding with the cattle having access to nearly 1000 acres of land. They are out-wintered with no additional supplements having to find what forage they can. I have to say the cattle looked remarkably well on this very low input system, it shows how well the cattle can do on lower quality forage alone. There will be an article on the estate in the next edition of the Newsletter.

John Hare – Docking, Norfolk

I called into meet John who I hadn't seen for several years as Tony Barratt was managing his herd. John's Summerfield herd consists of about 30 breeding cows plus associated youngstock. The cattle were in the middle of calving and looked well. The cattle building had had quite a lot of work carried out on it, including a new roof, which meant that the cattle had a much better place to calve in and was making the feeding of the cattle much easier with much better access to machinery.

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

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Nicola and Andrew Goodings – Wymondham, Norfolk.

Nicola and Andrew, together with daughter Louise, have established the Wicklewood Herd with eight in-calf heifers. A new building has been erected which is ideal for the cattle they have, eventually they want to expand to about 15 breeding cows. The heifers had just started calving. It will be interesting to follow this new herd in the future as I feel it will be a herd of very good quality cattle.



24th March – Alec Foster, Blakesley, Northampton.

John Williams and I met at Blakesley today to inspect a yard of young bulls which were nearly all finished and destined for Dawn Meats, however Alec wanted some selected to be potentially sold for breeding. He wanted to keep one himself with another four or five selected. We went through the 20 plus bulls and selected five which John and I inspected which have all subsequently been registered and sold for breeding. Whilst there we looked at the young bull calf he has had born to the contract mating carried out last year, a very nice Mistley Linking Licias bull calf, Canute Maximus. I took tail hair samples so we can ascertain his Igenity Beef Profile status.

John Pochin – Leicester.

John and I then went to meet Andrew Kirk, Cattle Manager for John Pochin, to look at their contract mated calves, it's far too soon to say how these animals will perform but one of the bull calves by Underhills Likely Lad looks promising. Hair samples for DNA testing were taken.

30th March – Lady Getty, Brent Eleigh, Suffolk.

Today I went to meet James Porter, Farm Manager for Lady Getty, to select some young bulls for breeding. There was a yard of 25 for which I had orders for five with James wanting to keep one themselves. Trevor Robb, New Barn Herd, Chelmsford, came with me to select one of the young bulls himself. I subsequently inspected and registered six bulls. Lavenham Brook have had a slight change in herd management since last year with all bull calves kept entire then finished intensively at 13/15 months old. The remainder of the bulls were sold for beef the following week.



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Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694

14th April – Jenny Bellamy, Lathbury, Newport Pagnell.



Following on from the Council's recommendations, John Williams and I went to inspect the 15 month old young bull Newhaven Unique which Jenny has bred from dairy cattle she purchased from Alan Hewson. Jenny is milking four cows in with a

herd of 120 Jerseys. The plan was for this young bull to potentially have semen collected from him, however although he passed inspection it was subsequently decided that this should be deferred for the time being to see how he matures.

Joy Broughton – Mepshall, Bedfordshire.

Joy has been keeping her cattle at Mepshall for a few months now and has at the same time been looking after a young bull bred by Denis Jenkins. He wanted Heathgate Kristof inspected and registered so we carried this out. Joy also has a couple of excellent Nobodys young bulls which were inspected and registered at the same time, Nobodys Ninja and Nimrod. Nobodys Merlin was also there, he is a first class looking bull and is going to be used in the Heathgate Herd of Denis Jenkins.



12th May – Ted and Sarah Clover, Willingham, Cambridge

Ted and Sarah had a first class young bull, Belsar Joseph, which required inspecting and registering so I went and carried that out. He has been sold to Daniel Powell, Welshpool to join the Rowton herd. They also had a couple of 15 month old steers for sale which have been bought by Tim Hazlem, Pleshley, Essex.

*Ray Bowler
Society Secretary*

The Red Poll pewter brooch is available to purchase at £6.25 and the tie at a cost of £16.25 including UK postage. Anyone wishing to purchase items to be sent outside the UK should contact the Society first so that the postage cost can be calculated. All items of merchandise can be viewed and purchased on the Red Poll website.



A set of eight notelets with envelopes depicting modern and historic Red Poll £6.00 including postage and packing are available from the website www.redpoll.org or from secretary@redpoll.co.uk