

Newsletter No. 122 SPRING 2022

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:

Ben:

Stephen:

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



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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 2022 registrations is M

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.

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

Steers are always wanted.

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2022

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 your photographs appear in social media we have taken it that you don't mind them being reproduced in this newsletter or on our website. If this is not the case please contact me.

Many thanks,

Sally

salgrim27@gmail.com

07780964978

Secretary's Report – 19th February 2022

There are two new members for election at this meeting, seven at this time last year, they are both registering members. There are 341 members – 351 at this meeting last year. There have been 15 new members, with 25 resignations, deaths or removed for not paying membership during 2021.

The makeup of the membership is therefore: 247 Registering/Life Registering, 80 Associate/Life Associate, 7 Overseas and 7 Student/Junior. Since the last meeting I have sent out four information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

Two new members for registration:

L Samworth and Partners., Yole Farm, Linton Road, Balsham, Cambridge, CB21 4HB (re-instated)

M and C M K. Symons, Grange Farm, Lower Burham Road, Latchingdon, Chelmsford, CM3 6HF

40 straws of semen have been sold so far this year, compared to 58 last year. Last year's total was 251 straws compared with 187 the year before.

One bull has been inspected since the last meeting. 32 were inspected and registered last year. 16 of the bulls were M0s and 16 M1s, Average inspection points were 171. All the animals have their Igenity Beef Profiles. It is interesting that M0s and M1s were equal, the year before having seen 80% of the bulls registered being M0's.

Registrations were once again a real struggle but by being persistent with emails and phone calls the final figures are 721 Registered Females, 35 Grading Females and 32 Bulls making a total of 788 animals. These are from 110 breeders, a decrease of 29 animals when compared with registrations for 2020. I think this is actually quite good as there have been several herds which have either dispersed or registrations have reduced due to crossing. The main ones of these being: Woldsman with 30 reductions, Appleton with 22, Salthouse 16 and Legacy with 14.

12 breeders who last year registered four or five animals have either stopped registering or are crossing their animals, these make up another 58 animals. In addition to this there are another 75 less registrations from members due to a variety of reasons; mainly seemingly a high percentage of bull calves being born. So taking all these things into account to only being 29 animals down is actually very good, 19 new members have registered 82 cattle this year which is a god send—without these we would really be in trouble.

Following on from last year's analysis, I thought it would be interesting to analyse the numbers of cattle being registered by breeders:

The following table shows this analysis:

1—2	3—5	6—10	11—15	16—20	21—25	26—30	31—35	36—40	40 +
33	31	24	8	5	4	1	2	0	1
34	26	30	7	5	4	3	1	0	0

Black = 2020

Red = 2021

It shows that the majority of our breeders register one to five animals so it's imperative that we continue to service the smallholder. Large commercial breeders are just as important but it's interesting to see the breeders make up. Again out of interest the largest number of registrations were made by the following herds:

Stonham: 31 animals, Grafton: 28 animals, Creting: 26 animals, Elmham: 34 animals

Hopeham: 25 animals, Lawford: 24 animals, Lavenham Brook: 23 animals, Oaklands: 22 animals

I have been out and about a reasonable amount since the last meeting visiting members new and old, in fact 32 having been visited. Local members in Essex and Suffolk have been the majority but I have been up to Norfolk three times, Dorset once and the Midlands once. I have also attended Breeding, Show and Sale and Finance Committee meetings in Leicester and Rugby.

Cattle sales have been steady through the winter. New member, Michael Symonds, has purchased 20 heifers from Lady Getty together with a bull from Joy Broughton and re-instated member James Kiddy has purchased six in-calf cows from James Stygal. Robin Moxon has purchased four bulling heifers from Harry Irwin. There are a few other deals in the pipeline which hopefully will go through in the near future. There may be other deals that have taken place but I haven't been informed of them. A few bulls are also due to change hands in the near future.

Ray Bowler

Legal requirements for setting up a cattle enterprise

- * Everything comes under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 which is administered by the Government's Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- * All cattle must be kept according to the "Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock – Cattle". A copy of this can be downloaded from the DEFRA Website.
- * Ensure land is registered with the Land Registry.
- * Apply to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for a County Parish Holding Number (CPH).
- * Apply to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for a Herd Number. The herd number is printed on the animal's ear tags and denotes your herd.
- * Apply to the British Cattle Movements Service (BCMS) – Administered by The Cattle Tracing System (CTS) online. They will issue individual ear tag numbers for cattle born on your holding so that the animal's individual passports can be applied for when calves are born. They will also send you stickers with all the herd information printed on which need to be put on the cattle passports when any movements take place or when calf passports are returned to you.

- * Apply for ear tags to any of the ear tag manufacturers.
- * When animals arrive on the farm ensure movements are recorded using CTS online. All movements of the cattle must be recorded using CTS online, these are for movements on and off.
- * Ear tagging of calves must be carried out within 36 hours of birth for dairy bred cattle and 20 days for beef bred cattle.
- * Cattle passports must be applied for within 27 days of birth.
- * It is illegal not to have two ear tags and passports.
- * Register with a veterinary practice.
- * Keep a movements register.
- * Keep a medicines record book.

For the Red Poll Cattle Society

It is hoped you will become a member of the Society – applications forms are on our website www.redpoll.org or contact the Society on 01245 600032 or email secretary@redpoll.co.uk

When you have become a member and purchased cattle, they need transferring onto the Society database. This is carried out by contacting the Secretary. The vendor should send the cattle's pedigree certificates to the Secretary however some prefer to give them to the purchaser who then needs to send them. Unfortunately though sometimes the certificates aren't available in which case the Secretary can issue duplicate ones.

Prior to purchasing cattle check with the vendor they are registered or contact the Secretary who can check for you.

You need to choose a herd prefix ie the name you want to call your herd. Check with the Secretary that the one chosen isn't in use by another member.

When heifer calves are born they need registering with the Society. This is carried out by sending their details to the Secretary either via email or post.

Details required are: name, ear tag number, date of birth, sire's name, ear tag or Herd Book number and dam's name, ear tag or herd book number.

The Society have a year letter for naming heifers. However this isn't a strict rule as some breeders want to have family names, themed names or just a name they like.

Heifer calves must be registered within the year of birth. However once your calving has finished for the year, it's recommended registration details be forwarded.

When cattle are sold, or culled, let the Secretary know so that the Society has an up to date database of where animals are and the numbers within the breed.

If you are considering keeping a male calf entire, as a possible future breeding bull, then it's recommended that the calf is birth notified – the same information is required as for a heifer.

Rules for registering a breeding bull can be found in the Society's Bye-Laws which are printed in the annual Herd Book and on the website www.redpoll.org

Regency Red Polls – Where it started and where we are now

As new entrant to farming, I was set on the idea of my own stock. In the winter of 2020, I asked Ray Bowler how easy it would be for me to have a few animals of my own, given that I had been given the go-ahead from my employer at the time.

“Leave it with me”.

That was his reply as I remember it. About a month later, January 2021, my first four, in-calf cows arrived from Ebony Prior, Nottinghamshire, and in another month calving had started. It was not an ideal start, losing the first calf and nearly the cow – it’s always the best ones! However, the rest calved unaided giving me two steers and a heifer, which was the start of the Regency Herd. In April 2021, they were joined by two bulling heifers from Shuttleworth College, one of which was descended from a Lordship cow from Writtle College, which is where I gained my first-class undergraduate degree and was awarded the Essex Agricultural Society’s student of the year; later to become Farm Estates Manager whilst still in my final year. It is also where I first came across the breed.

James Rea’s Ladlers Herd were over-wintered at the college in my first and second year, which is how I became fond of their characters, ability to thrive in low input systems, easy calving, and maternal instincts. Which, with the direction that British agriculture is moving towards, can only be a good thing. Being the local, native breed (Suffolk born and bred) was another key point of interest!

In April 2021, I visited the Canute Herd along with Ray as he carried out his bull registrations and selected my first bull, Canute Lars M1, who later joined the herd and went straight to work. During the summer 2021, another three in-calf heifers and three bulling heifers joined the herd, from Paul Wisden, Leicestershire.

The summer saw the Regency Herd win Best Suckling Calf for Regency Leading Lady, and Highly Commended New Entrant in the Eastern Herd Competition, which was a really proud moment for me with such a new herd.

Calving restarted in November 2021, with the arrival of a steer calf, a heifer and bull calf. The bull calf, Regency Lordship M0, has since had his Neogen Ingenuity scores back; ranking forth on the up-to-date Society’s bull list, which is fantastic news. I’m very excited to see what calves he can produce in a couple of years’ time.

An in-calf heifer was used as part payment for four Lavenham Brook yearling heifers which joined the herd in December 2021.

In January 2022, I made the decision to move on from my role at Writtle, which meant the cows moved too, to Monks Eleigh, Suffolk, with the help and input from several Society members. I was shocked at the amount of help and offers I received from multiple members but most notably James Porter, Sally Grimwood and Ray Bowler. I’m very grateful for the amount of help and encouragement I have received since starting the herd, which has facilitated me to be the youngest herd owner/breeder within the Society—or so

I'm told. I feel proud to be part of an organisation that wants the best for the breed and its members.

February 2022 has seen three calves born, two well-framed heifers who will hopefully be retained and a steer calf. These are the first progeny from Canute Lars M1, making it another milestone achievement. I'm now eagerly awaiting the remaining five cows to calve, but I have recently acquired two bulling heifers from the Hepworth Herd and the bull calf Hepworth Samurai M0, who will be grown on as the autumn herd stock bull.

Where now? Well, the decision has been made to keep the herd and slowly expand it over the next few years, hopefully to 20-30 cows. I'm in the process of getting my HGV licence, which will help fund the cattle until followers come through. The herd will be split into spring and autumn herds with different bulls in each. Spring born heifers will enter the autumn herd and vice versa, aiming for heifers to calve at 2.5 years old.

Given the shortage of Red Poll herds producing breeding bulls, I would like to continue producing a select few of my own, within the top 10% production index, alongside heifers with a top 10% maternal index. This will be fuelled by both visual, breed standard selections, pedigrees and genetic testing of all calves to help make informed selection decisions.

Longer term ambitions are to buy a small plot of land to erect sheds of my own, or grazing fields suitable for over-wintering to provide long-term security for the herd, either of which would include a good handling system. I also hope to be voted on to the Council at this year's AGM so that I can become more involved with the Society and help to continue improving the breed, coupled by working towards becoming a Society judge.

It has been a big learning curve since this journey started, but I certainly don't regret it – it has been one of the best decisions I have ever made! I'm incredibly proud of what I've built up and what I'm aspiring to achieve. It goes to show that it is possible for younger people to make their own way into farming!



Charles Clack
07596988809
clackagriculture@outlook.com



Regency Red Polls



If you like what you've just read and think you can help with anything below, or would like to know more, please get in touch!

Farm Share Opportunities |
Winter housing/shed space |
Grazing | Second-hand Trailers
and handling systems for sale

SELECT ANIMALS FOR SALE YEAR-ROUND!

We could provide:

Bull Hires | Contract mating |
Shared grazing/housing
agreements | Farm Work/Help
on your own farms | Contract
Calving with own equipment



It would also be great to visit more herds! Please get in touch for anything else!

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it's



SHOWTIME

The Red Poll Cattle Society National Show
is to be held at

The Suffolk Show, Trinity Park, Ipswich

Tuesday 31st May and
Wednesday 1st June 2022

(please note the change of days for this year due to Jubilee bank holidays)

Visit our ringside marquee for a cuppa and a chat
and view our exhibition of Red Polls down the ages.

The Suffolk Show also has a Platinum Jubilee
exhibition as well as all the usual wonderful
entertainments, so a worthwhile
day out for the whole family.



True Strengths of Red Poll Cattle

This is a transcript of a letter from Richard Cobbald, son of Douglas Cobbald of the Denton Herd, to Stephen Prescott in 2011 which Stephen thought would be of interest to readers.

Richard Cobbald N.Sch., BIM
Peacehaven Follifoot
Harrogate, HG3 1DR

Tel/Fax 01423 879090

Mr Stephen Prescott
Lickham Hall
Scarborough
Driffield, YO25 9BB

9th April 2011

Dear Stephen

Reading the article in the Yorkshire Post Country Week featuring yourself and Yvonne with the picture of your Red Poll cattle, I fell into a memory mode and write to congratulate you on your success your perseverance and for being correct in understanding the true strengths of Red Poll cattle. Your cattle in the picture show tremendous length and substance, I and others were wrong to import the Danish Reds to try and make our Red Polls into cattle able to compete with the black and whites in milk production, hindsight makes things much clearer. I and others in my family knew of the great success around the world of the Red Poll as a docile successful suckler cow. My father judged them in South America. I won prizes for judging beef cattle in the Young Farmers classes at Smithfield and other shows but did not feel that the Red Polls could compete as beef cattle.

Only yesterday I was asked about the affect of the foot and mouth outbreak at Harwood in 1960 and bringing out a memento I kept from those days, a nose ring taken from the late Princess Royals, show bull Wenhaston Churchill when he and the rest of her pedigree Red Polls cattle were slaughtered. Red Polls have had such an influence in my life that I feel the need to record some of the things that come to mind.

During and after the second world war from the age of 10-15 I milked 70 Red Polls in the school holidays and drove tractors without any health and safety rules. In 1948, at the age of sixteen, I left school and for periods milked the herd at 5am and 5pm, driving tractors between milking and at busy times worked until 10pm at night. We worked a six day week and I wonder now how I found time to get married and have children. In 1954 I decided to emigrate to Canada and worked my passage from Glasgow to Quebec on a cattle boat, with 12 Red Poll in-calf heifers and 6 Beef Shorthorn Bulls. After a month in quarantine the cattle were loaded onto a train and taken to Portage la Prairie, a small town to the west of Winnipeg. The train was so long that despite the long bends round the many lakes in Ontario, not once did I see the end of the train in the three day journey. Some of the heifers

had calved which I milked by hand, throwing the milk out of the carriage window. When I arrived at my destination the milk ice was a foot thick down the side of the carriage.

At the farm a small number of cows were milked for consumption by the family and neighbours some 10 miles away, but mainly Red Poll cows were single suckled and put to a Hereford bull. Your comment about icicles reminded me that the suckler cows outwintered on rough shrubland in temperatures down to minus 35 degrees. They had such long woolly coats that in frosty weather they looked just like buffaloes. If the wind was blowing nose and ears had to be kept covered or people would get frostbite. The ice on the lake adjoining the farm was 10 feet thick and the farmer drove his 10 ton lorry straight over the ice once a fortnight to Portage to get provisions. Food was left in the cab which acted as a deep freeze. Mr Wilkinson the farmer farmed just as his father had done in Lincolnshire in the late 19th century, all the work done by horses and transport for the farm was by horse and sledge. After six months I decided the life was not for me and headed home via New York.

In 1959 my knowledge of Red Polls helped get me a job as farm manager on the Harewood Estate in Yorkshire working for the late Princess Royal. She was a lovely lady whose knowledge of pedigree Red Poll family lines was second to none. I travelled the country showing her cattle at the Royal, Royal Highland and many county shows. After the 1960 foot and mouth disaster the herd had to be rebuilt from scratch, from Kirton, Wenhaston and Staunton herds amongst others. The Staunton cows did particularly well I remember. Sadly the Princess Royal died in 1967 and the new owners decided to stop showing and then to replace the Red Polls with commercial black and white cattle. During this period I had been a Council member of the Society and then started judging around the country. My leaning toward dairy types in those days now causes me some embarrassment when I remember judging at Chester le Street. The champion was between the winner of the dry cow class, a magnificent cow lengthy with good legs weighing around three quarters of a ton but with very large bottle teats too large for milking machines. She was against the winner of the fresh calved section, a smallish young cow with an udder like an Ayrshire. I had got myself into a no win situation and much to the annoyance of everyone round the ring and to my shame I made the fresh calved cow Champion. Not long afterwards I gave up judging.

With advancing years I tend to reflect on my journey through life. My father, who you knew, died in 1972. He told me that he did not envy my generation. The society we had inherited, having fought in the first world war. He felt that those who gave their lives in two world wars would have hoped for something better. Having witnessed immense change in my lifetime I can now perhaps better understand my father's sentiments.

My kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Richard J H Cobbald

Bull Fertility – Red Poll Society

Not knowing whether your bull is fertile, subfertile or infertile will have an impact on the length of the calving period, the percentage of barren cows and calf weaning weights. Current studies show that 1 in 5 bulls are subfertile, either on physical examination or semen evaluation or both. This most likely would increase to 1 in 4 bulls when libido and serving capacity are evaluated.

Subfertile bulls are usually not obvious, especially when several bulls are rotated around the cow groups for an extended period of time. A fertile bull has an average pregnancy rate of 60%. If he is in with the group for 12 weeks the expected in calf cows would be 98%. If the bull is subfertile and only has an average pregnancy rate of 30% then after a 12 week mating period the percentage of in calf cows would be 76%. This is much lower than the fertile bull but could be explained away by individual cow problems, illness in the group or external factors such as heat stress. However, if the bull had a pregnancy rate of 40% which is subfertile, after a 12 week mating period the percentage of in calf cows would be 86%. This is often considered an acceptable number, when considering the age of animals or problems at last calving so probably wouldn't be investigated. If this reduced fertility is put into profit lost by a reduced number of calves it seems more significant. The average cost of one finished steer currently is £1240, which is a potential loss of £14,880 for a subfertile bull with a pregnancy rate of 40%. Therefore, the value lost from reduced calves reared outweighs the cost of the bull's fertility test.

Just like in breeding cows the bull's fertility is reduced by stress, systemic illness, lameness, back injuries, extreme body conditions and parasitic burdens. Any abnormalities or injuries to the penis, prepuce or testicles can temporarily or permanently make a bull infertile. This can change throughout and between mating periods, so it's important to examine the bull before each mating period.

Pre-breeding bull examinations are a cost effective way of reducing the risk of using subfertile bulls, although they do not eliminate the potential for illness or trauma during the breeding season that can affect fertility. Close observation of the bull during the mating period is also important, as it provides information on how he is performing physically and whether he is actually mating.

The bull breeding soundness exam (BBSE) consists of a physical exam and evaluation of the semen. Libido and serving capacity can be assessed but this is a more difficult process so is often advised only if there is still concern over the bulls fertility. The physical exam should indicate any signs of systemic illness, lameness and under or over body condition.

Examination of the scrotum can reveal abnormalities of size or consistency, such as orchitis and epididymitis. For a bull over 24 months of age his scrotal circumference should typically be >34cm although there are some breed variations. Anything smaller and there is reduced testicular tissue meaning a smaller volume of semen is produced. If this is the only abnormality and the bull is with a small group of females then the overall fertility of the group

shouldn't be affected. However, if there are sperm abnormalities or the bull is with more than 50 cows fertility will be reduced. Examination of the prepuce can show abnormalities such as swelling of the prepuce due to trauma or tearing and prolapse. Both can lead to strictures or adhesions preventing the bull from fully extruding his penis. It is ideal to examine the fully extended penis to check for any deviations, hematomas and papillomas which can hinder severing ability. Most of these conditions can develop during the breeding season as well as before so it is important to keep an eye on the bull during breeding.

Next a semen sample is collected via electro-ejaculation. Colour, volume and consistency are noted before it's examined under a microscope. This provides information on motility, percentage of normal and abnormal sperm and any abnormal cells such as white blood cells in the sample. Based on this the vet will pass, fail or recommend retesting the bull if it's possible the reason for subfertility is resolvable.

Infectious diseases are an important factor in fertility for both cows and bulls, can be tested for and most vaccinated against. IBR, BVD and Leptospirosis can reduce fertility in bulls, which if passed onto the cows can cause reduced fertility, weak calves and abortions. Although Johnes doesn't directly impact bull fertility, the condition loss in the clinical stage of the disease can indirectly lead to poor semen quality and reduced libido. Neosporosis is a prevalent disease in cattle, which can cause abortions throughout gestation. The role of the bull in transmission of the disease is unclear, but the current research indicates that the transfer through semen is unlikely. Again, there is limited research on whether Neospora Caninum has a clinical effect on the bull in the initial infection stage, there would be a risk that a transient rise in temperature could affect sperm quality and therefore fertility but this is a theory. Therefore, it is important to include the bull in any disease control programs and if buying them in then make sure his disease status is known.

Venereal diseases should be considered if using a bull as they can cause abortion and reduced fertility without any obvious clinical signs. Trichomoniasis and Campylobacter are spread via AI, infected bulls and contaminated bedding or equipment. The bulls are asymptomatic and often the only signs that cattle have been infected is reduced fertility, return to service and abortions. Diagnosis is via culture of the bacteria from the bulls preputial sheath wash. Control of these diseases via testing, culling and strict biosecurity protocols is most effective, although treatment of Campylobacter with Streptomycin and vaccination programmes are effective.

Therefore, to avoid any loss due to introduction of disease or poor fertility in the bull, make sure his disease status is known, any lameness dealt with and a BBSE performed a few months before breeding season.

*Mia Ellis, BSc BVet MRCVS
Westpoint Farm Vets'
Chelmsford*

Member visits – Winter 2021/2022

I've titled the article winter visits but in actual fact it starts in September so probably should be autumn but it encompasses all through until the end of February. In fact over 40 members have been visited during this period. I won't describe them all in detail as several I have been to before, in fact some many times over the years, however some are new members or members who are doing something different to what we perceive as the norm.

The 15th of September saw me start a three day tour of members in what I would call the mid-west. James Stygal of the Stapleford Herd in Essex, had previously asked if he could join me on one of my tours as he wanted to see more herds than those in his close vicinity so he came with me, I have to say it turned out to be an excellent few days.

First port of call was Fir Farm Ltd. in Gloucestershire. They have set up a new milking herd of Red Polls with the foundation cattle coming from Alan Hewson's Ironstone Herd. This has been complemented by 20 heifers from Quentin and Maggie Edwards Cools Herd. We were shown around the herd by Estate Manager David Wilson and Herdsman Richard Brown who have re-located from Highgrove Estate due to change in management there. The aim is to milk about 60 – 70 Red Polls with the milk being made into artisan cheese or sold through vending machines in the Cheltenham area. They have purchased the cheese making equipment from Alan and have re-instated the parlour that was de-commissioned when the previous dairy herd was dispersed a few years ago.



Fir Farm Dairy Cows



Pinguis Jacob 22

When visited they were milking 16 cows with 10 heifers to calve during October and 10 more heifers calving in the spring together when the cows are calving again. The cows and spring calving heifers are in-calf to Pinguis Jacob who was purchased earlier in the year. This is an exciting time for the breed and Society as it's great to see members starting to milk the cattle again because as we know they are truly a dual purpose breed.

Next port of call was the Netherleigh Herd of Mike Amos, Failand, Bristol. It has been several years since I visited Mike but his herd continues to impress. It is comprised of South Devon, Red Poll and their crosses although of late the Red Poll has been used more as Mike is very concerned about the loss of milk in the South Devons. The majority of the stock are sold as boxed

beef or through local Farmers Markets. Current herd sire is Kemerton Iceberg who looked in fantastic order.

We then travelled to Kemerton to meet Rob Havard who is share farming the herd of Adrian Darby. The cattle graze the meadows around Kemerton House and Breden Hill. The herd is now exclusively kept outside on a mob grazing system. An



Netherleigh steers

article for them was in a previous edition of the Newsletter so I won't go into it any more. Suffice to say this is an interesting management system, the cattle looking well in the beautiful surroundings they were grazing at the time of visiting.

We stayed the night in Tewkesbury prior to the next morning visiting Julie and Jonathan Joseph's Trecorras Herd near to Ross-on-Wye. This fairly recently established herd is really looking well, the steers looking particularly impressive. Foundation cattle were purchased from the Cools Herd with Pinguish Joshua now being the herd sire.

Next call was to Richard Tomkins's Long Friday Herd, Leominster. Richard has a tremendous herd of cattle, a lot of them Shorthorn crosses, as he says the Red Poll cross Shorthorn makes, in his opinion, the ideal suckler cow, and when crossed with an Angus bull the resulting weaned cattle make a fantastic trade in Leominster market. The latest Red Poll bull being used is Hopeham Enhance which he purchased from James a couple of years ago. He is a tremendous bull and his recent crop of calves were of a very high quality. I've tried for many years to get Richard to register heifers but to no avail as he says nothing is sold off the farm for breeding, if he doesn't want to keep it himself then he sells it for beef.



Tomkins Cattle

We then went to Daniel Powell's Rowton Herd, Halfway House, Shrewsbury. What a fantastic herd of cattle Daniel is building. I have reported on the herd before so I'm not going to go into details again but just to say the

cattle look in first class condition grazing the mixed herbage forage, the herd being grazed behind an electric fence which is moved every day. Current herd sires are Nobodys Eclipse and Nobodys Jedi with this year's heifers mated by new purchase Belsar Joseph. This is certainly a herd to watch in the future.

Final visit for the day was to Society Chairman's John Williams Pinguis herd. John is a real stockman which shows in the quality of the cattle he breeds. I have reported on this herd several times so no need to mention again.



Rowton Cattle

Following the night in Telford Travel Lodge, the next day saw us visiting Huw Foulkes Pentrefelin Herd in Denbigh, North Wales.



Huw Foulkes

Huw has established a milking herd of, at present 10 cows, but wants to expand it to 50 or 60 cows within the next few years. Heifers were originally purchased from the Tatton Herd and Chorlton Lane Herd of Helen Arthan.

Bull Canute Kip was also

purchased to mate not only these heifers but also Huw's Welsh Black cattle. Subsequently Huw has decided to use AI on the Red Poll to ensure more dairy blood lines are in the herd. Recently milking cows from the Newhaven Herd of Jenny Bellamy have been purchased. These are Ironstone bred cows together with some Red Poll cross Jerseys. six in-calf heifers have also been purchased from the Capel Manor Herd which roots also go back to Ironstone bloodlines. The cattle are at present milked once a day in the morning with their calves being taken off in the evenings and then returned to the cows after the morning milking. The milk is sold on via door step deliveries with the intension of when production increases making cheese and selling via vending machines. The cattle are forage fed being grazed on the mob grazing system with the area split into day paddocks using electric fencing. It is hoped that the cattle will be able to stay outside all year round but the farm has facilities for housing them if the ground conditions become too wet. This is an interesting management system, I look forward to seeing how the enterprise progresses and wish Huw all the best for the future.

We then called in on Huw Rowland's Plemondestowe Herd, Mickle Trafford,

The Tatton Herd of Tatton Park in Knutsford and the Oaklands Herd of Helen and John Langley, Bunbury.



Tatton cows and calves

I have commented on these herds before and been to visit on several occasions, but James hadn't been so he found the three herds very contrasting management regimes very interesting, giving him plenty of food for thought. A very successful three days all around.

During October I attended the Herd Competition Presentations in all four areas together with the Annual Dinner and subsequent farm walk. Herds visited were: The Boames Herd of David and Simon Tompkins in Berkshire, The Pochin Herd of John Pochin in Leicestershire, The Grafton Herd of Euston Estate in Norfolk, The Woldsman Herd of the Prescott family in Yorkshire and the Cools Herd of Quentin and Maggie Edwards in Wiltshire. These have all been reported on by various members so I'll say no more.



Oakland Steers



Oaklands Pangolin

On my way up north to the Northern Herd Presentation I called in to meet Elaine and Mark Hall who farm just outside Leeds. Their recently



Kiddal Calves

established Kiddal Herd comprises of 10 cows purchased with calves at foot from the Woldsman Herd together with bull Hepworth Skipper. The cows look in excellent condition as do last year's calves. However, this year's calves by Skipper also look very impressive, they were only two months old when I visited but they did look good.

I stayed overnight with my brother in Halifax before the next day going to inspect a bull for Peter Fowler in Dent, Cumbria. The farm is managed by Kevin Milburn. What an idyllic place to live when the weather is favourable but when not I couldn't live there, last time I went it rained constantly, this time it was beautiful. The young bull Dentdale Kabull of Craven wasn't the biggest but was well put together and in good condition. These cattle have it hard up there grazing the moor tops but do remarkably well, a testament to the versatility of the breed.

During November I visited several members locally, Sam Taylor's Little Linton Herd, Jonathan Clarke's Canfield Bury Herd, Tom Marsh's Hallingbury Herd, Donald McGowan's Mascallsbury Herd, James Rea's Ladlers Herd, Capel Manor College's Capel Manor Herd, Charles Clack's

Regency Herd and Tim Hazlem's Park Gate Herd. First class cattle in all cases, a good testament to Essex members.

In addition to the above I went to see the recently established Fobbing Herd of George Young. George is a very forward thinking young man and is making a name for himself in the industry. The herd are managed on the mixed herbage mob grazing system and I have to say look brilliant. Foundation cattle were purchased from the Ladlers, Canfield Bury, Cools and Canute Herds. Herd sire is Wheatfield Kestrel who is a true dual purpose Red Poll. His temperament is excellent, as are the rest of the cattle, it is a real pleasure to be around them. It will be interesting to see how the herd develops with George having plans to have a small abattoir and butchery on site and in the future milk the cows selling the milk to coffee shops in London and vending machines in the locality.

On the same day I visited Essex Wildlife Trust who have established their own herd of Red Polls at Tollesbury Wick Nature Reserve. They have been using a commercial grazier over the past few years but this hasn't worked out as expected so they have decided to take



Fobbing cattle

control themselves. The reserve is managed by Joe Wicks. The Salthouse Herd was purchased in its entirety last year. This comprised of 45 in-calf cows with calves at foot together with bull Appleton Romulus. The cattle graze nearly 1000 acres of marsh, having basically the run of it all, it is tidal so they have to learn where to go at high tide, it's amazing how they do this. The cattle were out-wintered last year but it has been decided to house the cows this winter, at least for some of it, particularly around calving time, as it will make management far easier. The weaned calves looked excellent amongst the reeds, really at home and happy. Another completely different system of keeping the cattle, once again showing the versatility of the breed.

At the end of November I had a day trip into North Norfolk. First port of call was the Tommyshop Herd of Jackie Taylor in



Essex Wildlife Trust weaned calves

Terrington St Clements near King's Lynn. It is several years since I had been to Jackie's and her membership and registrations had slipped. I re-instated her membership and took details of several registrations to get her back up to date. She also had a very nice young bull Tommyshop Janus which I inspected and took tail hair samples from. The herd looked well despite the very wet conditions that were underfoot, the cattle are out-wintered and have a dry lie-back field to go into and have a field shelter to go into but apparently they don't use it, they'd rather stay outside.

I then went to Docking to see John Hare and his Summerfield Herd. I have been there on numerous occasions over the years especially when Tony Barratt was managing the herd in conjunction with his Appleton herd. Once more the cattle looked very well in their recently re-furnished accommodation.

Next was the Thornage Herd of Thornage Independent Living, Holt, managed by Philip Culley. It is several years since I had been there. It is a very interesting place as its main purpose is to provide adults with learning difficulties a safe and educational environment for them to live, learn and work in. The residents run the various enterprises on the farm under the diligent eye of Philip. The cattle look very well with hired bull Nobodys Kingdom, from Sam Taylor, looking particularly impressive.

Last call of the day was to meet Alison Allen and view her Marshland Herd, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe. This small herd of six cows was established a few years ago with cattle purchased from Nick Roberts Heckingham Herd. Over the years Denis Jenkins has lent her a bull, the resulting stock looking very good. There were four bulling heifers sired by Bridgham Lancelot which Alison wanted to sell as she didn't have enough space to keep anymore animals, which really looked the part. These were subsequently sold to Lady Getty. It's very remiss of me but that was the first time I had visited Alison's farm.

Visits in December were made to the Stonham Herd of James Forrest, Stowmarket, to make arrangements for the 2022 Society Field Day which is being held there. Whilst there I viewed the cattle in their new building—what a fantastic resource this is. The cattle looked well, it will be very interesting for members to view the herd and facilities in June.

Whilst in the area I called on Roger Carter and his Stowupland Herd for a quick view and catch up.

Following this I called in on the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket to view their small herd of cattle. I was shown around by Emma Lodge, their Stockperson. Three in-calf heifers from the Heathgate Herd of Denis Jenkins looked well on their marsh land grazing. Joy Broughton had hired them a young bull, Nobodys Nimrod, to serve the heifers with, he was waiting to go home. It's good to see Red Polls back there after several years without them. It's a first class opportunity for the general public to see the breed and I hope we can do some promotional work with the museum.

Another day I went to see the Kirton Herd of Tidal Hill Ltd. I was met and shown around by the new Herd Manager Andrew Thrush. The majority of the cattle are registered Red Polls mated with an Angus bull to provide finished cattle for the Suffolk Food Hall. However, in the future a percentage of the herd was going to be bred pure to provide replacement females. They have purchased Woldsman Guardian from Freston Farming Ltd. for this.

On the same day I called in on Ian Stennett, Halesworth, and his Suffolk Herd. Ian's old bull Croftbank Casterbridge has left some first class animals but as Ian wanted to keep some of his heifers it was decided that he needed to go. Following



Tidal Hill cattle

discussion I suggested Ian went to see Heathgate Frank at Loudham Hall who required a new home as his daughters were ready to enter the herd. Ian subsequently purchased Frank which should see him settled for a few more years.

On the way home I called into see Ed Turner and Sally Grimwood and their Seahawk Herd. There were several Society items that I needed to sort out with Sally so everything worked out well.

The beginning of January was very busy in the office chasing members for their 2021 born heifer registrations and processing them but I finally got out towards the end of the month. I visited James Kiddy of L. Samworth & Partners, Balsham, Cambridge. They had been members of the Society several years ago but lapsed their membership due to going over to Angus. However a change in policy has seen them purchase cattle from Sam Taylor's Little Linton Herd, Nick Roberts Heckingham Herd and James Stygal's Stapleford Herd. I re-instated their membership, the purchased cattle look very good so hopefully all will be well this time. I then visited Michael and Carol Symons, Latchingdon, Essex to sign them up as members as they have purchased 20 heifers from Lady Getty's Lavenham Brook Herd, 10 bulling and 10 yearlings, and young bull Nobodys Ninja from Joy



Uggershall Javelin

Broughton. I look forward to seeing how this herd develops.

Early February saw me visit Giles Crisp's Uggeshall Herd, Suffolk, to inspect a young bull, Uggeshall Javelin. I picked up Dick Smith on the way. Dick's knowledge of the breed is second to none so spending the day with him is a real bonus.

I'm sure Javelin will prove to be an excellent bull, as to be fair all the Uggeshall cattle are. The cattle are out-wintered on sandy land with straw bale shelters. They are fed haylage in ring feeders.

I then spent a couple of days in Dorset staying with Tony and Ann Barratt. My wife, Susanne, came with me so on one of the days I took Tony to visit Douglas Ryder's Repstone Herd, Corfe Castle. It's a few years since I have been there so it was good to see the herd and have a catch up. The cattle graze the hill opposite the castle, a spectacular view if ever there was one.

They are out-wintered in the woodlands and are fed silage in ring feeders in a chalk quarry. The cattle looked in first class

condition, a real testament to all concerned. The last two years calves have been sired by Woldsman Brigadier and they really do look the part. Douglas purchased Brigadier from Roger Thomas, Carmarthen, who had used him in



Repstone cattle



Appleton Pytheus

his Abbyvale Herd for several years, his offspring there are also excellent cattle. Douglas has several heifers for sale which I'm sure I'll find a home for.

We then went to visit Tony's daughter, Rebecca Sharpe and family in Charminster. They established their Cowden Life Herd for daughter Lottie last year with some of Tony's Appleton

heifers. The first calves had just been born sired by Appleton Pytheas.

The cattle are out-wintered and fed hay on a fairly exposed hill although there are tall hedges all round which the cattle can get behind.

Next port of call was to George Dewhurst, Long Bredy to see his Sands Herd. George cancelled his membership a few years ago as he started to cross his Red Poll cows with a Devon bull. However, the resulting offspring have proved somewhat difficult to manage so he has decided to go back to pure Red Polls which is excellent news. He has re-joined the Society and purchased bull Nobodys Mercury. Once again these cattle are out-wintered and fed hay on a very exposed hill but they do have the benefit of a valley to shelter in. However, it can have its problems if it snows heavily as it is prone to drifting; however no cattle have been lost in the over 50 years that George has been at the farm! I know I keep saying it but the cattle looked in first class condition, they certainly do well in the Dorset climate.

Mid-February saw me have a day in Norfolk/Suffolk visiting Sarah and Gerald Barnes Hopeham Herd and their butchers shop, what a great herd of cattle and even more impressive shop.



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Sands heifer

Nicola Goodings Wicklewood Herd was next. Daughter Louise is really keen on the cattle which showed how quiet and easy the cattle were, a real testament to all concerned. This herd was established last year with eight in-calf heifers purchased from the Lawford Herd of Mark Martin. A young bull, Lavenham Brook Kenny was subsequently purchased, he looked well, the cows being due to calve again at the beginning of March. I was particularly impressed with last year's calves, now yearlings, sired by Bowland Ferdinand. The cattle are housed in a new purpose built building and fed hay, I have to say the whole enterprise is very impressive, I look forward to seeing how the herd progresses, It's certainly has got off to a very good start.

On the way home I called in to see Mary and Ellie Brookes and their Hepworth Herd. It's a real testament to them how they have continued with the herd established by Richard. The cattle look in first class condition. They had a couple of bulling heifers and a young bull, Hepworth Samurai, for sale as they don't want to grow the herd above the present number of five cows. These have subsequently been sold to Charles Clack to join his Regency Herd.

Final call of the day was a quick drop in for a coffee and catch up with James Porter, Lady Getty's Farm Manager. The cattle there continue to impress, last year yearling bulls are growing really well averaging 1.80kg/day with a few of them doing over 2.00kg/day admittedly on ad-lib concentrates and straw. The aim is to get them to 580 – 600kg by 15 months old when they will be sold through Anglia Quality Meats to whoever is paying the best price, unless anyone wants to purchase a young bull for breeding, last year six were purchased by various members from there.

In addition to all the above the office keeps busy with a whole variety of administrative items to deal with, two Council and seven Committee meetings have also been attended since September.

I hope you still enjoy reading about my travels and members' herds. I keep on saying it but I really have the best job anyone could have, visiting farms all over the country viewing the different herds, management systems and meeting members.

Ray Bowler

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 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."



Field Day 2022



The Stonham Herd
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Sunday 12th June

Key Dates / Events 2022

Date	Event	Location
19 th February	Council meeting	Stoneleigh
20 th April	Inter College day	Shuttleworth
23 rd April	Council meeting + AGM	Stoneleigh
24 th April	Judges standardisation day	Barkby, Leicester
8 th May	South Suffolk Show	Bury St Edmunds
28 th May	Beef Expo	Darlington
28 th May	Shropshire Show	Shrewsbury
28 th /29 th May	Hertfordshire Show	St Albans
31 st May 1 st June	Suffolk Show/National Show	Ipswich
1 st June	Staffordshire Show	Stafford
12 th June	Field Day (James Forrest's)	Stowmarket
17 th /18 th /19 th June	Three Counties Show	Malvern
21 st /22 nd June	Cheshire Show	Knutsford
29 th /30 th June	Norfolk Show	Norwich
23 rd July	Council meeting	Stoneleigh
8 th September	Westmorland Show	Kendal
29 th October	Annual Dinner	Cambridge area
12 th November	Council meeting	Stoneleigh

In addition to these dates there will be various committee meetings and herd competition presentations/farm walks etc.

Fedw Stig 26877



Sire: Fedw Thomos

Dam: Fedw Crag

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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

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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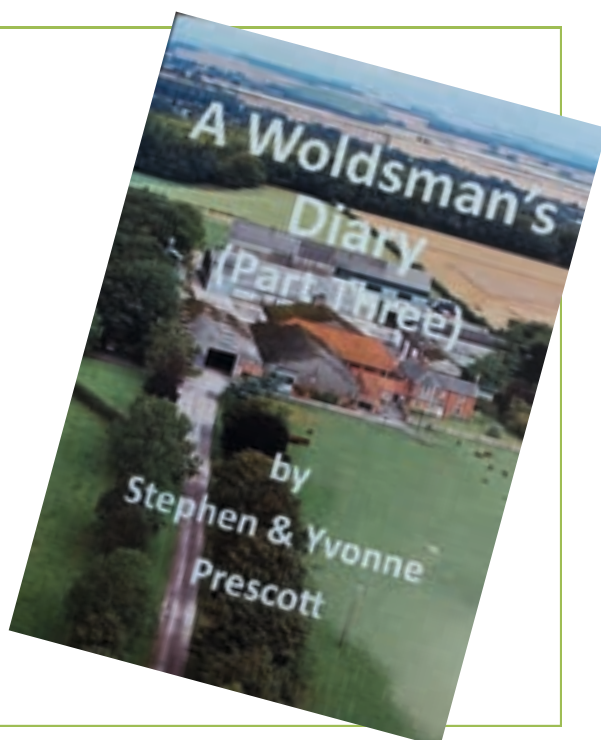
Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694



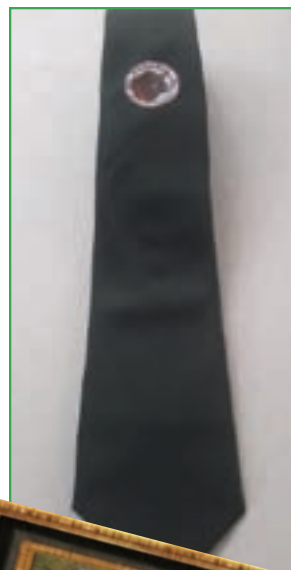
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www.redpoll.org



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