

LONGHORN

Cattle Society

**Longhorn Cattle Society summer visit
Saturday 27 July 2024**

HMP Kirkham, Frekelton Road, Kirkham, Lancs, PR4 2RN

The Society is grateful to the Governor and staff of HMP Kirkham for inviting the Society to visit the Kirklan herd for their summer visit. The day is a joint visit between the Society and the Northern Longhorn Breeders' Group.

The Kirklan herd was established in 1991 with purchases of Linton and Longrove breeding. The herd was substantially added to in 2007 when the Newbrook herd at HMP Hewell Grange was dispersed and over the years further breeding has been added to the herd, with Southfield, Blackbrook, Fishwick and Oxlane among the well known prefixes.

In 2006 Keith and Peter arrived at HMP Kirkham with five Longhorns following the closure of the dairy farm at HMP Lancaster Farms. They have built up the herd over the last 25 years and when they arrived most of the land was put over to horticulture with no fencing or infrastructure necessary for livestock. Over this time Keith and Peter have built utility buildings to house the cattle, put in irrigation, water troughs and fencing and created over 60 acres of grassland, producing our own silage year on year. The management team at Kirkham were fully supportive of the farm and livestock enterprise and continue to recognise its value as real work experience opportunity for prisoners and a great asset to the prison and prison visitors to see.

Keith and Peter have created a prize winning herd of Longhorns and the prison has a solid reputation throughout the Society which is down to the life's work and dedication of them both. The staff are proud of their herd and visitors to the prison are always amazed at what they have achieved within the prison. The herd now totals around 60 head, with three current stockbulls - Aberdeen Quartz and Stoke Mudlark and homebred bull Kirklan Victory.

For many years the herd was a regular fixture at Society shows, especially the Royal Show. HMP Kirkham is a Category D (open) prison and prisoners were able to attend show with the cattle, giving them

valuable experiences in readiness for release at the end of their sentences. Unfortunately, budget constraints have meant that the Kirklan prefix has not been seen in the show ring for a few years now.

The livestock graze over 60 acres of grassland and the land is managed to benefit wildlife where possible, incorporating uncut field margins and hedging. Some awkward corners have been fenced off and planted with grouped hazel, wildlife corridors have been incorporated between fields and single trees and hedging have been planted where possible. There are also 3 bee hives producing honey which is down to Peter who is the bee expert. There is always more to do having a site of more than 200 acres which includes the prison accommodation, staff workspaces, industries, woodland, ponds, arable, greenhouses, polytunnels and gardens. Rare breed Large Black pigs and native breed Hebridean sheep are also kept to complement the cattle enterprise.

- The visit is limited to 50 persons
- No visitors under 18 years of age
- All visitors to provide Debbie with their National Insurance number by Saturday 20 July
- No mobile phones or cameras to be taken into the prison.

If you would like to attend the visit please let Debbie Dann or Graham Walker know on secretary@longhorncattlesociety.com or walkergraham93@gmail.com



Kirklan cattle