

LONGHORN CATTLE SOCIETY

AGM Weekend 14-16 October 2016

Llandeilo & Swansea

This year we head to Wales and our base will be the Cawdor Hotel in the beautiful town of Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, situated on the Towy. We will be visiting the Llewellyn family's Carreg Herd and Carreg Cennen Castle on Saturday and then on Sunday we are visiting Andrew Williams' Rhyfel herd at Pontarddulais, just outside Swansea.

In a change from the usual format please contact one of the following Hotels to book your room direct.

The Cawdor Hotel has a variety of rooms to suit all tastes and budgets with room rates from £65 to £200 per night bed and breakfast. Please say you are staying with the Longhorn Cattle Society for a discount on a two or more night stay.

Tel: 01558 823500.

Website: www.thecawdor.com

The Plough Inn is about 1 mile from the centre of Llandeilo. They have rooms from £75 to £125 per night bed and breakfast.

01558 823431 www.plougrhosmaen.com/

A list of other local accommodation is also available overleaf.

Itinerary

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

Members arrive at their respective Hotels. Guests to make their own arrangements for dinner tonight.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

10.00am Carreg Cennen Castle and Carreg Herd of Longhorn Cattle, Trapp, Llandeilo, SA19 6UA

The Carreg Cennen Castle website gives a comprehensive history of the Castle. <http://carregcennencastle.com/Index.htm>.

Bernard and Margaret established the Carreg herd in 1981 with two cows from Fishwick, alongside Welsh Blacks, White Park and Highland Cattle to dress the land surrounding the iconic attraction of Carreg Cennen Castle— by the early 90's with the exception of providing animals for film sets they turned solely to breeding Longhorns. The basis of the herd, with the exception of a cow called Tottiskay Juliet, has female lines confined to Fishwick, Rousham and Linton cattle. Bulls of various types have been used over the years in attempt to breed milky cattle with good locomotion; it's our deliberate policy to buy bulls in bits in an attempt to overcome any herd weaknesses. Particular success has been achieved with Fishwick Kinsman and Bulford Freddy. Freddy sired several animals of note including Carreg Cennen who still holds the breed record for a Longhorn sold at public auction. In recent years a limited amount of line breeding has been practiced in an attempt to retain our position in the show ring. Cattle not required for breeding are slaughtered locally and sold to a database of regular customers from as far a field as Bristol and Norfolk

A tour of the cattle and a stockjudging competition

1.00pm Lunch. A hog roast lunch at the Castle

2.00pm **AGM**, including the presentation of the Bull of the Year Award, Cow of the Year Award, Paul Lockett Novices Award, The Junior Handlers Award.

Tour of Carreg Cennen Castle

7.00pm for 7.30pm Evening dinner at Carreg Cennen Castle. It is anticipated that a coach will be arranged to transport members from the Cawdor and Plough Hotels to the Castle and then back again at the end of the evening.

Dinner of Carreg Longhorn beef. We will be entertained by Encore Stage School, an English/Welsh speaking stage school for children aged four to 18. There will then be music for dancing for those that want to from 10pm

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

10.30am Visit to Andrew Williams' Rhyfel Herd, Castle Ddu Farm, Castle Ddu Road, Pontarddulais, SA4 8DH

Having seen Longhorn Cattle on the Rare Breeds stand at the Royal Welsh Show back in the 1970's Andrew started his herd in 2011 with foundation stock coming from the Glasnant herd at Llanelli when that herd dispersed. These bloodlines were mainly Carreg and School Green. Subsequent purchases have been from the Fishwick, Blackbrook and Southfield herds with a strong emphasis on maternal lines. Stockbulls have included Carreg Knight, Southfield Kobra, Southfield Otto and the current bull is Southfield Granite. The 100 acre farm has been in Andrew's family since the 1880's and much of it sits on the estuary of the River Loughor which has it's source at Black Mountain in the Brecon Beacons (just above Carreg Cennen Castle!). Andrew used to rear calves and sheep as well as grow green crops and arable but the combination of BSE and heavy winter storms meant a career change as Andrew went into tree surgery, sawmilling and joinery. This business expanded and has continued until the present day. Alongside his timber business Andrew has now found time to start showing his cattle and in 2015 he won the Paul Lockett Novice's Award and 2016 will see him do more on the show circuit. Andrew will show us the cattle and those who enjoy birding can spot plenty of waterfowl and waders on the estuary.