

# THE LONGHORN



**End of an era for  
the Harford herd**

**Focus on herd  
health**

**On farm with Ben and  
Tori Stanley**

**Blackbrook does the double at  
The National Show**

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## Welcome from the Secretary

Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Longhorn, the second issue of our new publication which replaces the Journal and the newsletter.

After the hiatus of the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was almost business as usual for the Society and its members this summer with many local and county shows back up and running, so it's great to be able to share member success stories from the showing once again in this issue.

The Society launched a new look website in October; I hope you've taken time to have a look around and you've found it is much easier to navigate on your mobile or tablet than the previous site.

As a member of the Society, you will continue to receive regular email updates on Society news and activities. The Knowledgebase of the website has a wealth of information regarding Society rules and regulations, but if you ever need more information on any Longhorn related queries, feel free to contact me in the office.

The Longhorn magazine reflects the Society membership and the activities you all participate in. If you think you have something that may be worth including in the next edition, or you have possible leads for stories or features, please do get in touch.

As we near the end of the year, may I wish you all an early Merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Society events next year.

Best wishes

*Debbie Dann*

- Society secretary

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**LONGHORN**  
Cattle Society

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# A note from the Chairman



Welcome to the autumn edition of The Longhorn. This year has been a year where we all hoped life would start to return to normal and the industry would resume its usual annual calendar of events stepping out of the shadow of the COVID - 19 pandemic.

To some extent we have started to resume some normality, but the world is a different place and the impact this is having on the industry is being felt across the country. With ever increasing commodity costs and economic uncertainty we are living through challenging times. We have, however, been able to carry on with most of the Society's planned events and you will see from the articles in the magazine that it's been a great year for the breed.

Shows across the country have seen low livestock entries this year, but Longhorns have continued to be one of the better supported breeds with 29 members exhibiting more than 80 different animals this year. Showing is so important to all breeds, it is the shop window to attract new members and breeders and if we don't continue to support the shows many will struggle to continue to hold breed classes.

I'd personally like to thank all those members who have put in the hard work to prepare and take cattle out in the show ring and to all those members who turn up at the ring side to support them. For our National Show this year we travelled to Suffolk where there were some great cattle on show with the breed championship going to Blackbrook Zither from Pat and John Stanley.

As well as in the show ring, Longhorns have been doing well in both live and online sales. The Society has run two online sales this year with a top price of £3600 for the junior bull, Gentons Valegro in the autumn sale. There have also been some successful dispersal sales in 2022 most notably the Tanfield and Harford herds with top prices of £5670 and £4400, respectively.

At last year's AGM I spoke about how the Society was looking to invest in modernising its digital and traditional print publications. The Longhorn is such an eye-catching, photogenic breed that I strongly feel we need to make the most of it! This year we have moved our attentions to improve all aspects of breed promotion through the three main mediums of traditional print, web and social media.

As well as this magazine, we have also re-launched our social media pages and a revamped website was launched in October. The trustees recognise the importance of the look and feel of the Society and ensuring that the quality of the Longhorn brand keeps pace with the quality of the Longhorn cattle.

The effective promotion of the breed is key to attracting new members who will become that next generation of Longhorn breeders. We have been making good progress with some 60 new members signing up to the Society over the last two years.

Part of the strategy to further promote the breed is to showcase members who are building and running successful businesses or organisations focussed on the Longhorn breed. We have started collating a series of case studies that will be published online and through this magazine. You will see in this edition a feature on Ben and Tori Stanley who have developed a hugely successful retail business with the Longhorn breed. Showcasing members who are using Longhorns in various farming systems and for different purposes demonstrates the versatility of the breed and gives potential new members real examples of how Longhorns are being used in many successful farming enterprises.

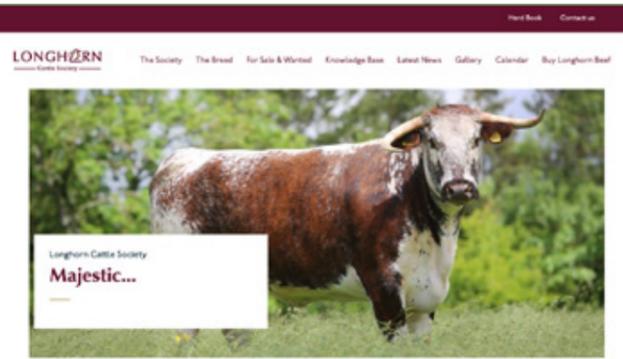
We are continuing to see massive growth in the use of Longhorns in commercial beef systems. The many favourable attributes of the Longhorn are being recognised and the industry is slowly taking notice of the breed. Longhorn sired calves continue to command a premium and perform exceptionally well.

In early November a number of members visited Ed Riley's family farm in Shropshire where he is rearing and finishing Longhorn cross cattle from the dairy industry on the Buitelaar Heritage Beef scheme. It was a fascinating visit and great to hear Ed talk about how the Longhorn is outperforming other native breeds. You can read more on this in the magazine on page 46.

Following six years as a trustee, three of which as the Chairman of the Society I have now served my maximum term and will be retiring from Council. Being Chairman has been a huge honour, I am extremely passionate about this fantastic breed of ours and I've been reflecting recently about how the breed has progressed over the years, but perhaps more importantly about its future.

Uncertainty and change within any industry can not only bring risk, but also huge opportunity. I strongly believe that the Longhorn breed is in a fantastic position to take on the future challenges in agriculture. With rising cost of inputs and the environmental and sustainability incentives being driven by new Government schemes, the Longhorn's ability to thrive off sustainable grass-based systems will be a huge factor influencing breed choice in the future. We need to grab this opportunity by the horns, build on its recent success and continue to drive a positive message about the breed and all its attributes.

*Tom Mills*  
- Society chairman



Welcome to the Longhorn Cattle Society

www.longhorncattlesociety.com

## SOCIETY LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE

The Society launched its new website at the AGM in October. The look of the site has been completely overhauled, but the main navigation remains the same and it is now compatible with mobiles, tablets and their browsers.

More content is being added, with the aim of the Knowledgebase becoming a comprehensive archive of Society activities over recent years.

The website address remains the same, it will just look different the next time you go to the site!

You'll also see that the Society logo has also had a refresh, updating it to a contemporary font while still retaining the distinctive Longhorn 'look'.

## FRIENDS REMEMBERED

We remember Society members who have passed away recently.

### Henry Plumb, Lord Plumb of Coleshill

Henry had the Maxstoke herd of Longhorns and was often seen at the ringside of Society sales at Worcester. Henry was a farmer's son who went on to be President of the NFU in the 1970's and then was European Parliament President in the 1980's. His spirit and resolve helped shape the agricultural industry and his determination to leave a lasting legacy resulted in the creation of The Henry Plumb Foundation which encourages and mentors the younger generation to engage with the agricultural industry.



Henry Plumb



Angela Blockley

A full tribute to Angela is on page 32 of The Longhorn.

### John Warner

John established the Charnwood herd of Longhorns in 1992 and had great success in the show ring, most notably with the homebred cow Charnwood Carpathia. John was President of the Society in 2008 and 2009.



John Warner

## NEW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Having come to the end of her term, which was extended for a year due to COVID-19, Nicky Lockett handed the presidential baton over to David Blockley of the Southfield herd, who will be the Society's president for 2023 and 2024. Already an active supporter of the Society and its events, we look forward to seeing David in his official capacity.

## NATIONAL SHOW 2023

The Society is looking forward to returning to the Great Yorkshire Show for The National Show in 2023 on 11-14 July 2023. The Great Yorkshire Show is one of the most popular regional agricultural shows with our members and we look forward to seeing a magnificent turnout of Longhorn cattle over the four days of the show. The Society will have a stand at the show in the cattle lines.



David Blockley

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members to the Longhorn family.

- Jane and Iain Tapp, Devon
- Veerle Vekeman, Belgium (Associate)
- Edward Bradford, Aberdeenshire
- Alisha Lack, North Yorkshire
- Sarah Chatfield, Isle of Wight (Associate)
- Hugh Eddy, Cornwall
- Ben Goldsmith, Somerset
- Roland de Hauke, Devon
- Robert McAneney, Yorkshire
- Mark Goodman, East Sussex
- Nicky Devereux, Worcestershire
- Verity Biddick, Cornwall
- Elwyn and Caitlin Biddulph, Wales
- Bleddyn Jones, Wales
- Martin and Emma Sharp, Yorkshire
- John Champion, Leicestershire
- Will Moreno, Kent
- Ben and Jen Sutton, Monmouth
- Elaine Archer, Cumbria
- James and Alice Parslow, Worcestershire
- Adrian and Jenny Riley, Cumbria
- Vere Rowsell, Castle Douglas

## TRUSTEES

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Please contact any one of them if you have any queries regarding Society or Council matters.

# MEET OUR TRUSTEES

Continuing our regular focus on Society trustees, here are three of our valued team.

## BERNARD LLEWELLYN MBE, FRAGS, MRAC

I am informed that I am now regarded as one of the elder statesmen of the Society! It is more than 40 years since we bought our first Longhorns and I would like to believe that our Carreg herd and the breed has made recognised progress since the early days of rare breed status. I have served several terms on Council and been its Chairman twice.

My long-suffering wife Margaret and I farm in partnership at Carreg Cennen Castle, Carmarthenshire, West Wales. We have three daughters and eight grandchildren, most of whom seem to be infatuated with young handler competitions. I have also been referred to as an 'agri politician', a title bestowed on me while I was Wales YFC chairman serving on a young people's agricultural group facilitated by the European Commission.

Such interest has continued more recently on behalf of NFU and the CLA at Welsh, UK and European levels and I have had the privilege of chairing several groups concerned with agriculture and the environment and in particular our effect as an industry on climate change, defending such topics as methane belching cows and promoting food self sufficiency.



Bernard Llewellyn (left)

**PET HATES** - social media, career politicians and cattle with bad locomotion.

**LOVES** - family, Longhorns, the racehorses I try to breed from our two National Hunt mares with very limited success and professionally administered committees.

having a reduction sale so we bought three cows and calves to run alongside the commercials and started the Piggothill herd for Mr and Mrs Richardson.

In 2011 I had a "significant birthday" and my family bought me a heifer from Piggothill which was the start of my own Lower Blacup herd. During this time, I had the honour of being invited to join the panel of judges, a role I really enjoy any time I judge.

In 2020 I decided to put myself forward for Council and was successful in being voted on. My main reason for wanting to be on council was that I thought some decisions were being made without a great deal of thought for the majority of members and I hoped to change this. I also felt there wasn't enough contact between Council and members.



Brian Wragg (right)

## PETER CLOSE

In 1954 my father bought Fishwick Mains on the banks of the Tweed - including a 10-acre island in the middle of the river and by 1974 we were running a large commercial suckler herd calving to Charolais bulls.

By the early 1970's we had become disillusioned with the Holstein influence in commercial Hereford cross-bred suckler cows and in 1976 bought a Longhorn bull to put to Welsh Black females in an attempt to "breed a better suckler". It was a huge success delivering easy calving, thrifty, economic cows.

A few pedigree Longhorn females soon followed. We first showed in 1980 - at the Royal of all places! Between 1981- 1995 we won the Royal Show Longhorn female Championship 11 times.

By the turn of the century the commercial cross-bred herd had gone and we were running 40 Longhorn cows and 80 Simmentals. As more Simmental breeders were chasing the bull market we scaled back and put the Longhorn bull onto remaining Simmentals to breed outstanding Longhorn x Simmental heifers providing an exceptionally productive cow for easier ground. We run a small demo herd of these.

I was first elected to Council in 1981 and have served for 33 of the last 40 years and as Chairman during 1987-1989, and more recently on Council from 2008-2011 and then from 2018 until now. When I first joined the Society there were only 150 breeding females with about 50 heifer registrations a year. Of the 20 active breeders then - nearly 50 years ago - seven remain today: Stoke, Rousham, Hardwick, Leebarn, Croc Mhor, Whatton and Raby with the loss recently of Gorse, Raincliffe, School Green and Harford. But even this emphasises the stability and indeed fidelity of the breeders of Longhorn cattle.



Peter Close

## BRIAN WRAGG

I first became interested in Longhorns when the Bollin Valley Partnership started buying them for conservation grazing in the Riverside Park, which is very close to where I live.

Having worked with many breeds of cattle over the years I became interested in these unusual cattle which are very different from any others I had worked with. I did quite a bit of voluntary work with the cattle which led to me getting involved with showing and having quite a bit of success at shows all over the country.

I was managing a pedigree Holstein dairy herd and a decision was made to sell up the dairy herd and go into suckler cows. At this time the Bollin herd was

# REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HERD HEALTH

By Peter Close, Fishwick herd

**Increasing importance is being attached, both within the breed and within the industry, to animal health and significantly herd health status which gives reassurance to purchasers.**

To some extent this may be belated within the Longhorn breed, but Council's aim is to surpass the efficacy of the larger breeds whose protocols have to cater for a myriad of commercial interests. Much emphasis within those breeds has been focused on CHeCS Health Schemes, however the value of membership is only as good as the testing criteria.

It is possible for a herd to be a member of a health scheme and be riddled with every disease in the book. For this reason, the Longhorn Cattle Society has focused on testing rather than membership, but always bearing in mind that testing for sale within a health scheme is arguably more secure than simply pre-sale testing.

The diseases generally considered are (in order of economic relevance) Bovine Viral Diarrhoea [BVD], Johnes, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis [IBR], Leptospirosis and Neospora, with the first three generally considered the most problematic. Freedom from diseased cattle is obviously the prime concern, but it must always be in the front of one's mind that there is a responsibility and duty to

ensure that any cattle sold do not cause devastation, both financial and mental, in the hands of the purchaser. At the same time it must be considered that a disease-free herd is naive to infection. This is where the importance of vaccination comes in - with the exception of Johnes and Neospora where no vaccine is available. A Johnes vaccine was developed some years ago but it was found to interfere with TB testing.

Johnes is an insidious disease, but it is relatively easily managed and eliminated if you are ruthless. We bought our first Longhorn bull in 1976 to put onto Welsh Black heifers having become disillusioned with the impact of Holstein blood in Hereford cross commercial sucklers. A large percentage of the newly bought heifers went down with Johnes. The infected ones were all from the same source and were ruthlessly eliminated without infecting any other animals. Luckily, they had been kept separate from the main herd. This is a strong argument for isolating new arrivals until tested and buying in heifers rather than cows and calves where infection is more easily spread.

IBR is a social disease of cattle and rare in closed herds - we have never had a single case as far as we know. However, animals returning home from a sale or show can bring it home and cause havoc. Vaccination (with a marker vaccine) is recommended for cattle attending shows alongside isolation on return. It is important to note that bulls that are planned to go for AI collection have restrictions applied for any evidence of IBR infection.

Leptospirosis is an environmental disease often associated with rats and vaccination is recommended as a precaution which compromises health scheme accreditation as there is no marker vaccine. There is generally an equal split between accredited herds and vaccinated herds.

Neospora is a disease which has a varied manifestation. One school of thought is that it is only the initial infection from an outside source that causes problems - usually but not restricted to abortion. The infection can be, and usually is, passed on to offspring in utero. However, it is not entirely clear whether these antibody carrying animals are likely to abort though they are certainly less likely to than those experiencing initial external infection. One school of thought proposes that stress can precipitate parasite activity and that this is why it is more prevalent in dairy herds and relatively rare in beef herds.

That leaves us with BVD which causes abortion and is highly contagious. When a pregnant female encounters BVD in the first 125 days of pregnancy the embryo is unable to recognise the virus as an infective agent and adopts it as part of its make-up and becoming what we know as a "PI" - persistently infected. Before vaccines were developed some breeders used to run a PI with their 'open' heifers to ensure they became immune to BVD. This was a very efficient way of vaccinating them, but there are some horror stories where the spread was not deliberate.

In 2004 one of our show in-calf heifers must have encountered BVD on the circuit. In January 2006 we entered the SAC PCHS Health Scheme, testing for

Johnes and BVD and vaccinating for Leptospira. We were clear on Johnes and every animal in the herd had antibodies for BVD except the 2005 calf from the 2004 show heifer which only had antigen and was, therefore, a PI.

The plus side was that she had clearly vaccinated the whole herd. However, we knew there would be a problematic outcome for our 2006 calving. After testing at the end of April 2006 we had to destroy eight Longhorn calves as PIs, but we knew there might be worse to come. At the time we also had an 80 strong Simmental herd and from August each year the herds ran together so that all later born Simmental calves were from the Longhorn bull.

With most of the Simmental cows being bulled in May and June they would have been in their first trimester and highly susceptible to the roaming PI when the herds were mixed. A further six Simmental calves were removed from the herd as PIs.

The Longhorn Society now has a regime surpassing other breeds who allow access to breed Society sales by membership of a health scheme where the health status is clearly open to scrutiny. For Longhorn Society official breed sales it is not essential to be a health scheme member, but this does absolve from testing for Johnes in R1 and R2 herds and testing for BVD in BVD accredited herds.

All animals must be vaccinated for BVD. A TB test is required so the vet will already be in receipt of two visit charges. Vaccination for BVD may be done before or after an Antigen test. Clearly an Antibody test after vaccination is pointless as there is no marker vaccine. The only extra essential veterinary cost for an official Society sale is for BVD and Johnes testing. Given the potentially damaging effects such diseases can cause and reports of significant compensation claims, it seems to be good value reassurance for the buyer and essential cover for the seller.



# OFFICIAL SOCIETY SALE HEALTH RULES

The Society encourages its members to determine the health status of their cattle when offering cattle for sale, be it via private sales or public auction.

For official Society auction sales, all cattle forward must be TB tested, irrespective of their TB testing interval and the following health rules apply:

- Vendors do not have to be in a health scheme. Individual testing of animals is perfectly acceptable, and can easily be done when the cattle are being TB tested.
- Vendors not accredited via a health scheme wishing to blood test should do so not more than 60 days prior to the sale.
- Vendors who are active members of a CHeCS approved health scheme and holding current health scheme accreditation are exempted from blood testing for the specified diseases. Members must apply to their Health Scheme provider for an animal health declaration card prior to the sale.

The following specific requirements for Society sales are:

## Compulsory

### BVD:

#### CHeCS health scheme members:

- Accredited and vaccinated (all cattle except calves at foot).

#### Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test or 'Tag & Test' for Antigen and then vaccinated prior to sale. Calves at foot should either have a negative blood test for Antigen or been tag and tested negative for Antigen. There is no requirement to vaccinate calves at foot.

### Johnes:

#### CHeCS health scheme members:

- There are no further requirements for vendors in risk level R1 or R2. Those that are in risk level R3, R4 or R5 require a negative blood test (all cattle except calves at foot).

#### Vendors privately testing:

- These vendors require a negative blood test (all cattle except calves at foot) or faecal test if blood test timing is not compatible with TB test timing. Johnes' test sensitivities are poor and, therefore, membership of a health scheme is preferred but not mandated.

### TB

In all cases vendors must test all animals more than 42 days old on the day of the sale for TB, irrespective of home testing interval.

## Recommended

### IBR:

#### CHeCS health scheme members

- Accredited.

#### Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test.

### Leptospirosis:

#### CHeCS health scheme members

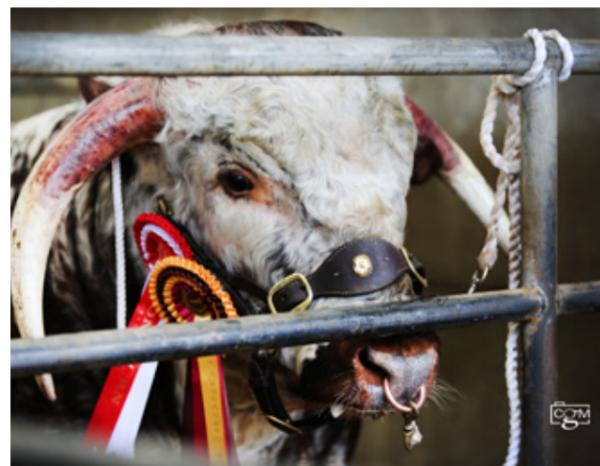
- Accredited.

#### Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test.

### Neospora

- Testing recommended for all females.



## Latest News

*Gentons Quirky EX94 is crowned Cow of The Year at the 2022 annual awards.*

*Gentons Valentine remained unbeaten in the junior heifer classes throughout the 2022 show season.*

# GENTONS LONGHORNS



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# A LIFETIME OF LONGHORN BREEDING FOR PAT QUINN

It is always a sad day when a breeder decides to disperse their herd, for whatever reason and however that dispersal takes place. Years of dedication, time and money culminate in one event that could be the defining moment of that breeder's time.

It was at the end of July when Pat Quinn's Harford herd moved from her farm in the Cotswolds to McCartneys' Worcester Market, along with her flock of Cotswold sheep. After many years of breeding, showing and enjoying her Longhorn cattle, Pat had decided the time was right to disperse the herd.

The day was supported by existing Society members and potential new members alike, and all the cattle went to farms to either start new herds or augment existing herds. The prices reflected the quality and depth of the cattle on offer with Harford Selina 2 making the top price of 4400gns, Harford Utopia 3100gns and Harford Sunflower making 3000gns (see the full sale report on Page 16).

Pat is the daughter of Sir William Lyons, the founder of Jaguar cars and she and her first husband, Ian Appleyard, had a successful career rallying Jaguar cars in the 1950's. The rallies were the testing ground for much of the technology that went into mass-market cars.

The Harford herd of Longhorns was founded in 1976 after a chance 'school gates' conversation with Joe Henson of Cotswold Farm Park - Adam Henson and Pat's son Michael were at the same school. At the time the Longhorn breed was on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust list, the RBST having been formed in 1973 by Joe himself.

Pat had bought Lower Harford Farm, which sits in a Cotswold valley on the river Windrush, in 1974 to allow her children to have ponies and enjoy life in the countryside. At that time the farm extended to 69 acres and was originally let to the neighbouring dairy farmer. The farm was brought back in hand after the purchase of various Longhorn females including Watling Penelope, Watling Lucy, Toddington Ann, Toddington Bee, Essex Ernestine and Essex Flow at the Essex dispersal sale. Further land purchases increased the holding to 155 acres.

Pat immediately understood that there were some substantial gaps in her animal husbandry

knowledge and set about taking training courses, learning from her vets, neighbours and of course the cows themselves. A few years in and homebred females were starting to come through and make their mark in the herd.

On recommendation from Roger Carter of the Leebarn herd, Harford Diana was halter trained and taken to the Royal Show where she stood second in her class, an accolade never to be forgotten by Pat. Pat's showing career continued in the 1990's with the highlights being female champion at the Royal Show with Harford Imogen in 1994, breed champion in

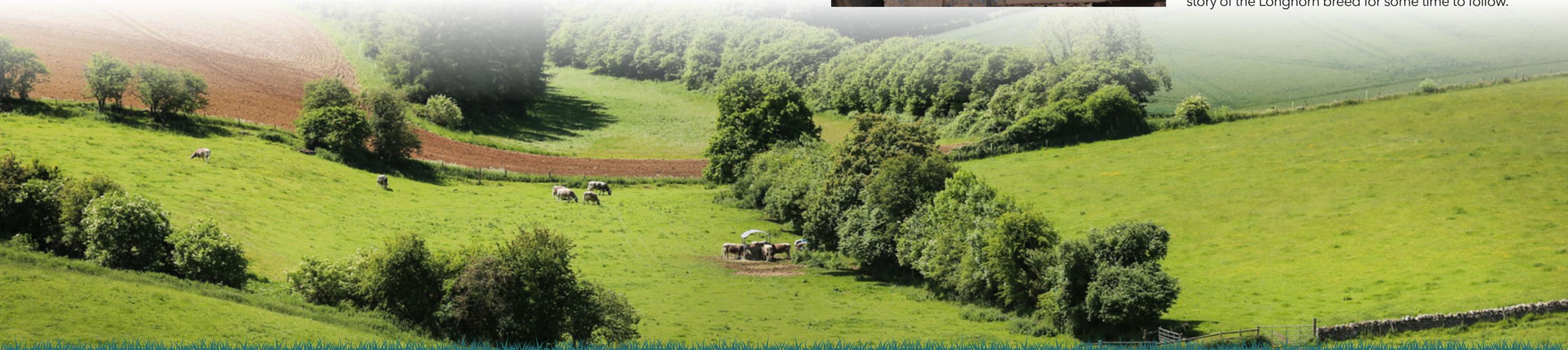


1995 with Halloughton Soloman and breed champion in 1996 with the heifer Harford Twinkle. The Harford herd's last year in the showing was 2003.

In the mid 2000's the Harford herd was badly affected by TB which Pat found profoundly upsetting and she became an active researcher and campaigner about raising the profile of bovine TB to the general public, public officeholders, industry leaders and politicians and even had a short film commissioned which shows the consequences of having positive TB reactors on the farm and the devastating effect of years of pedigree breeding. The video is available on YouTube, search for 'Bovine TB - a political disease'

Pat was Society President in 2004-2005 and instigated the Presidents' Award which is presented at the discretion of the president at the end of their term of office to the member they feel has made an outstanding contribution to the breed.

Harford breeding has been sold into many herds across the country while the herd has been dispersed, the valuable genetics will be preserved to continue the story of the Longhorn breed for some time to follow.



# HARFORD LONGHORN DISPERSAL HITS 4400GNS

## Averages

1 senior bull £1732.50  
12 cows £1852.77  
6 senior heifers £2572.50  
8 junior heifers £1968.75  
(McCartneys)

It was a fitting end to an era of Longhorn breeding for Pat Quinn, who having established her Harford herd in 1976, dispersed to a top call of 4400gns at Worcester Livestock Market on Saturday 30th July.

Leading trade at 4400gns was the April 2018-born female, Harford Selina 2, by Wellhead Largo Ex90 and out of the Dunstall Hector daughter, Harford Lola. With a heifer calf at foot by Blackbrook El Nino and having been running with the same sire again, she met spirited bidding and was finally knocked down to E J Biddulph, Tregaron, Ceredigion.

Next up for the cow and calf outfits on the day was a 3000gns call which secured Harford Sunflower 2. Born April 2018 and by Wellhead Largo, this one is out of a Blackbrook Tudor daughter, Harford Orchid and again sold with a heifer calf by El Nino at foot. Taking this one back to Shrewsbury, Shropshire were Messrs J E Barker and Sons.

Next up at 2650gns was Harford Suzanna 2. Again, by Largo and this time out of a Gorse Monsignor

daughter, this one sold with a bull calf at foot by El Nino to Jane Grant, Easingwold, Yorkshire.

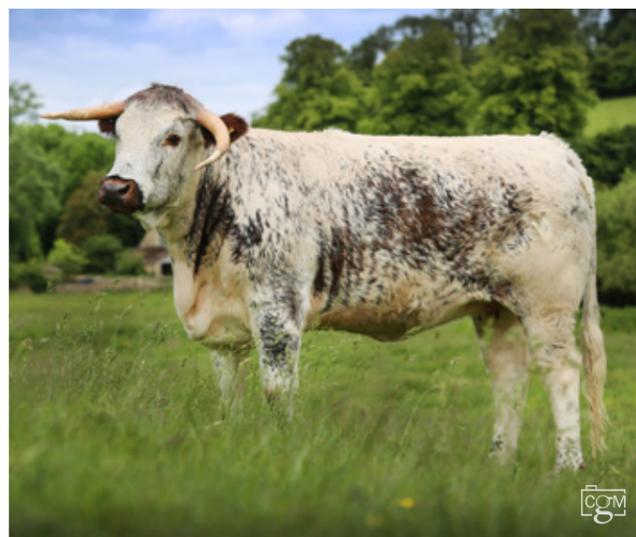
Leading the senior heifers on offer was the 3100gns Harford Utopia, an April 2020-born Southfield Octane Ex92 daughter out of Harford Questa, herself a Wellhead Largo daughter. Having ran with Blackbrook El Nino this one joined the top priced female on the day going home with previous buyer E J Biddulph.

At 2800gns the Blockley family, Bradford, West Yorkshire, secured Harford Uzzi. Again, by Southfield Octane, this one is out of a Wellhead Largo daughter.

Meanwhile, the top price yearling heifer was Harford Vanessa. This Southfield Octane daughter out of a Dunstall Hector daughter, sold for 2350gns to previous buyer Jane Grant.



Leading trade at the Harford Longhorn dispersal at 4400gns was the April 2018-born Harford Selina 2.



Second top price at 3100gns and topping trade for senior heifers was Harford Utopia.

# WHEATLANDS LONGHORNS

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# BOLLIN VALLEY HOSTED THE ANNUAL SUMMMER VISIT

The Society's summer visit to Bollin Valley Partnership, near Macclesfield took place in August. Bollin Valley Partnership has been working for some 40 years providing a Countryside Management Service within the catchment of the River Bollin.

The River Bollin is 49km in length running from the hills surrounding Macclesfield Forest to where it joins the Manchester Ship Canal at Bollin Point near Lymm in Cheshire. The Partnership manages sites across the valley, as well as the Bollin Valley Way, which approximately follows the River Bollin from Riverside Park in Macclesfield to the River Mersey near Partington.

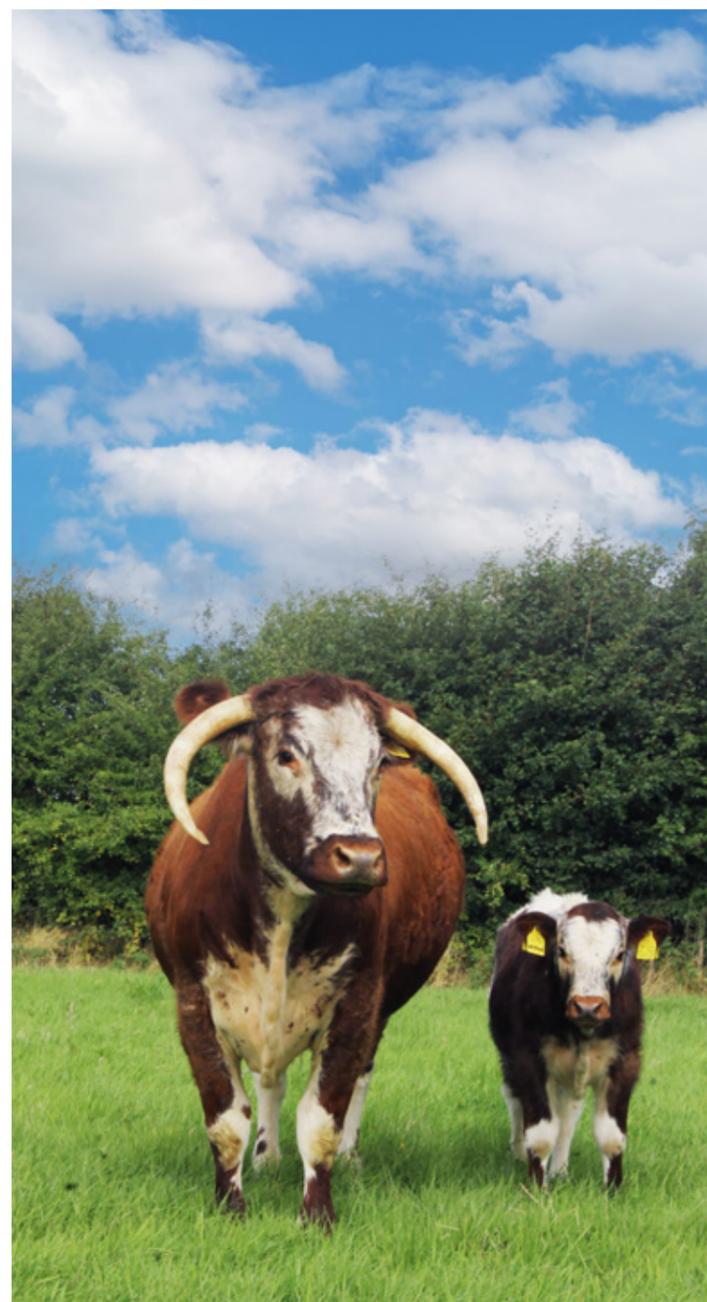
It aims to provide an efficient and cost effective countryside management service for the Bollin Valley, as well as improve the Valley's natural environment and recreational opportunities provide a Countryside Ranger service and encourage public use of the Valley while taking part in conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

The Longhorn cattle form an integral part of this management. The herd was founded in 1988 and currently stands at about 80 animals. These animals graze a range of habitats along the course of the River Bollin, from Tegg's Nose 1200ft up in the Peak District above Macclesfield to the flood plain at Riverside Park in Macclesfield itself.

These areas are fully accessible to the public so steers and heifers are grazed in these areas and then calving cows running with bulls graze land that is either not open to the public, or the footpaths running adjacent to the fields.

Our host Tim Harding and his team put on a full day of viewing the herd with additional talks and demonstrations from the herd vet and foot trimmer and the opportunity to talk to those local suppliers and contractors that are vital to the smooth running of the Partnership.

The Society's thanks go to Tim, Naomi, Euan and the rest of the Partnership team who worked so hard to put the day together, to the National Trust and to the businesses and organisations who came along to support the day.



# BEN AND TORI STANLEY

## Melbourne Park Longhorns

When passion for a breed is so intense that one side of a large cattle shed wall is painted with the words “Welcome to Longhorn country” there is no doubting the commitment, dedication and confidence that Ben and Tori Stanley have for the Longhorn breed.

That passion and commitment has grown significantly since moving to the 520-acre Park Farm some seven years ago, but prior to that, Ben and Tori admit the business has grown from humble beginnings.

The couple were renting a small 10-acre property, which then grew to 100 acres, some of which they still rent now. They had a larger focus on sheep production along with running three Simmental cross Longhorn cows; two of which are still in the breeding herd today, while at the same time Ben was buying Longhorn steers from Rousham Estate, Oxfordshire.

“Initially farming on a large scale wasn’t a priority for us, we wanted to start from a retail end and work back to be able to generate as much from each animal as possible,” comments Ben who undertook a Nuffield Scholarship looking at meat quality.

“We were doing four farmers markets in London every weekend - Notting Hill, Highgate, West Hampstead and Hampstead Heath. We did this for eight years, travelling down from Derbyshire and while it was

certainly hard work we learnt a lot about customer relationships and producing a luxury product in high demand,” adds Tori.

Having purchased three pedigree Longhorn heifers from various dispersals, the Melbourne Park herd began to grow. No strangers to the breed, Ben’s parents Pat and John Stanley own the noted Blackbrook herd and while Ben is incredibly proud of his Longhorn roots and his parent’s success within the breed, his intention has always been to forge his and Tori’s own path, particularly when it comes to selecting dam lines.

“Our original intention wasn’t to go in running a breeding herd as we were more market focussed rather than breeding focussed, but when we moved to Park Farm on a 25-year tenancy, the opportunity was too good not to take. Equally, the growth of the suckler enterprise meant we could produce a consistent, luxury beef product by having more control from start to finish which ultimately meant we could sell the story from start to finish,” says Ben.



Tori and Ben Stanley reflecting on the family’s win at The Great Yorkshire Show.

Blackbrook sires have been used selectively over the years. In fact, their son Bertie was gifted Blackbrook Trapper by Pat and John as a christening present - a bull that really shaped the future for the herd.

**The growth of the suckler enterprise meant we could produce a consistent, luxury, beef product with control from start to finish.**

Ben and Tori then purchased a whole herd from Suffolk and within this came Blackbrook Touchstone, another foundation stock getter. “Over the years we have tightened up cow quality in terms of improving udder strength and producing a more consistent frame shape.

“From buying in stores, which we still need to do to meet demand, we have learnt that the rangier ones work far better as they need that compensatory growth in getting finish on the frame at the right time. The Longhorn works perfectly for us, producing excellent flavoured beef and slower maturing, finishing at 24-30 months of age. It is hugely rewarding to see the progression of the herd over the years and it makes us proud to see what we have achieved so far,” adds Ben.

While the showing element of running a pedigree livestock business isn’t a huge priority, the family do take part in local shows and have had great success, including most recently celebrating a breed championship at The Great Yorkshire Show

this year, as well as having notched up various breed and interbreed championship wins at local shows. Former Longhorn Cattle Society breed ambassadors, the couple have also won the Cow of the Year title in 2019 and Bull of the Year in 2022.

“While it’s good to compare our stock amongst other progressive herds, we actually attend shows for our children. Bertie and Iona get a lot of enjoyment from it, which is greatly aided by the docile nature of the breed. And as Tori admits, the show news provides great social media content for keeping their ever-growing meat customers in touch with farm activities.

Alongside the Longhorns, the family run a commercial sheep flock of 250 Texel Mules, as well as a successful flock of Jacob sheep, a growing flock of Texels and a recently established Border Leicester flock.

The 80-cow Melbourne Park herd is all spring calving with the aim of rotating arable with grass. Some 70 acres of new grass is grown a year with the highest protein content. The couple prefer to keep the cows out for as long as possible, but due to the land type, winter housing must be available.





The majority of the herd calve in February having been on grass silage and straw for the winter and are then out unless the weather has other ideas, with cows managed as a number of satellite herds to maintain the consistency of the product. "Ideally I would like to run an autumn calving crossbred herd also to meet demand, but our current housing situation will not allow for that," adds Ben.

One of the hotly discussed topics of the Longhorn breed is disbudding and Ben admits he has a head versus heart mentality. "The practicalities sometimes outweigh the characteristics of the breed, but ultimately stocking density and space control are the decision makers," admits Ben. Youngstock are weaned at 280-320kg, with bulls having been steered and going on to be fed maize grass silage and barley.

**Those that are marketing Longhorn beef need to pool together and produce markers for the breed in terms of efficiency and meat eating quality.**

The crossbred cattle are finished in under 24 months with two summers at grass and then transitioned to home grown barley. During the last few months, a simple TMR ration is fed. Ben is adamant that while the Longhorn is a high-end quality, native product, it still requires a finishing period on concentrates to enhance the meat-eating quality through the carcass being balanced with fat distribution, coupled with the leanness of the meat. "Weanlings are fed less than 1kg of barley a day and when hitting the finishing period, 8kg of rolled barley is fed to just create that finish we are looking for. We have dropped purchased protein from the diet as our customers do not want soya. Although we haven't seen any difference in performance, we certainly have on savings," comments Ben.

Not only are Ben and Tori passionate about the breed, they are thoroughly animated when it comes to overall meat quality and meat-eating experience. "Those that are marketing Longhorn beef need to pool together and produce markers for the breed in terms of production efficiency and meat-eating

quality, perhaps by working with chefs to better market the message and ultimately grow the numbers within the breed. There is so much more to a Longhorn than a rare breed parkland animal," says Ben.

Ben and Tori are focussed on putting foundations down for their family, for their herd and for their growing butchery and farm shop, but above that they are all about telling the truth about their beef production by working closely with their talented butchery team at the butchery and farm shop in Melbourne.

"In 2017 the local farm shop became available as the couple running it decided to retire. At the time we were running from a unit in the village and had bought a refrigerated display, so this seemed the next logical step and we took the shop on in the October," explains Tori.

The shop now requires 150 bodies of beef a year to meet the demand with the couple supplying wholesale, restaurants, racetracks, sports tracks, other butchers' shops, farm shops, cafes, street food and of course the trade from the general public. As part of the available products, Packington pork and chicken are sold alongside the deli counter, lamb, veg, milk, and bread with a host of other regional products.

On top of show success, the couple have been recognised as Beef Innovators of the Year in 2016 and have been listed in the Daily Telegraph in their Top 20 farm shop listings. Even The Daily Mail recently quoted Tori and Ben's Farm Shop as "one of Britain's most flourishing farm shops" and there is no doubt as to their desire to provide high-end quality, honest beef for their customers, which has led to their business trebling in strength all while allowing their pledge to keep investing in the environment and producing sustainable meat to continue.





# AGM WEEKEND HEADED TO THE SOUTH WEST

Each year Society members gather in a different part of the country for the AGM weekend and this year it was the turn of the members in the South West to host herd visits.



In October members headed into the Devon countryside along typical hedgebank-lined lanes to Fowlescombe Farm, near Ugborough in the South Hams. Purchased by the Owens family in 2019, the farm was initially 290 acres but has recently been extended to 500 acres. When the Owens' bought the

farm it was an organic holding, finishing Aberdeen Angus cross steers and heifers for Dovecote Park.

Farm manager and our host for the day Rosie Ball started working at Fowlescombe Farm in 2015 and has been instrumental in putting the Owens' vision for the farm into action. The Aberdeen-Angus herd was sold and in came the Longhorns due to their superior eating quality, starting with cows from Peter Close's Fishwick herd followed by purchases from the Pointer and Kingslow herds and more recently Blackbrook and Melbourne Park. The Longhorn herd now totals 30 cows and followers.

Finished cattle are sold to a sister business on site, Rare and Pasture, which specialises in producing high quality charcuterie and fine cured meats. Online butcher 'The Ethical Butcher' also takes a number of animals, as does a local pub. Due to the volume of animals required by Rare and Pasture a Shorthorn herd has been introduced which now numbers 30 cows and crossbred calves are being trialled.

When the Owens' took over the farm the land was tired and in desperate need of improving. This is being done by the introduction of herbal leys. This is very much a work in progress, with the oldest ley being four years old. Currently there are only about 80 acres in an established ley, but the farm is gradually being reseeded and eventually most of it will be managed by short rotation grazing, moving the cattle every few days in order to let the grass recover before being grazed again. The only limitation to this system is the lack of water infrastructure around the farm.

Rosie was open to questions from members, discussing the pros and cons of membership of organisations such as the Soil Association and Pasture for Life, and where the premium on the product is derived from. Having a customer facing business as part of the Owens' portfolio gives Rosie a unique insight into

how the end product is marketed and increasingly discerning buyers are looking for provenance and ethically produced, 'climate-friendly' meat. The move to regenerative farming is seen as both good for the family of businesses and good for the planet.

On our tour around the farm members saw a batch of steers being finished on herbal leys before moving to fields with both Longhorn and Shorthorn cows and calves running together in a steep-sided valley with a beautiful stream running through it.

After the formal AGM, the presentation of the awards and thanks to our hosts, we headed back to the hotel, where we enjoyed a very sociable evening meal with plenty of chat and laughter.

Members then headed to Somerset to Dan Holmes' Westcott Farm near Wiveliscombe. Originally from Hertfordshire, Dan had a smallholding on



the outskirts of London and ran a commercial vehicle dealership before selling up and moving to Somerset. Dan and his wife Emma, a florist, moved to the farm in 2015 and started to establish their herd with foundation cows from the Gupworthy herd. Additional cows were bought from the Rooksbridge herd and the bulls Stoke Nobleman, Slough Merlin and Long Ash Nuggett have been added as herd sires. Gentons U-Rock had recently arrived as the new herd sire. Suitable females have been retained and some 40 females will be going to the bull next year. Dan markets his own Longhorn beef and has recently installed an on-farm butchery unit which has just gained organic accreditation.

The opportunity to purchase an adjoining farm with land and buildings came up recently and was too good to pass up. The land now extends to 260 acres and allows for significant future investment and expansion. The farm is organic, carbon negative and is working towards pasture for life status.



Beef and pork is currently sold to family, friends and locals and when the enterprise has been sufficiently scaled up - towards the end of 2023 - beef will be marketed online. Having lived near London and having non-farming friends, Dan has a vision of how he wants to tell the story of Westcott beef and feels his premium will come from the organic, pasture fed status of his animals.

The visit started with a walk to see the main breeding herd of cows and calves and then back to the farm buildings where Dan was quizzed about the recently installed handling system. The visit concluded with a short drive to the new farm where the finishing cattle were grazing.

It was great to see two relatively new members to the Society, both first-generation farmers, choosing Longhorns for their businesses, and to hear about how they are responding to a rapidly changing agricultural world where beef production is under more scrutiny than ever before.



## AGM Awards

### Bull of the Year – The Maydencroft award

- 1st Herbertsherd Issac, Master Bertie Stanley
- 2nd Southfield Uproar, Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley
- 3rd Blackbrook Endeavour, Mr and Mrs JW Stanley



Iona and Bertie Stanley receiving their award from Society President Nicky Lockett.

### Cow of the Year – The Leebarn award

- 1st Gentons Quirky, Mr B Facon
- 2nd Blackbrook Zither, Mr and Mrs JW Stanley
- 3rd Herbertsherd Honey, Master Bertie Stanley

### Senior Heifer of the Year – The Lesley Hutton award

- 1st Carreg Utopia, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn
- 2nd Cholmondeley Ulysses, Mrs J Mycock
- 3rd Southfield Ulana, Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley

### Junior Heifer of the Year – The Tetford award

- 1st Newton Forget Me Not, Mr D Walker
- 2nd Gentons Valentine, Mr B Facon
- 3rd Newton Flummoxed, Mr D Walker

### Best Young Handler – The Frank Sutton Award

- 1st Rhianydd Davies
- 2nd William Edwards
- 3rd Max Tesseyman

Rhianydd spent a vast part of the summer exhibiting in young handler's classes with notable wins including standing reserve champion at the Royal Welsh and second at the Royal Highland.

### Best Newcomer – The Paul Lockett Award

- 1st Peter and Charlotte Wild
- 2nd Master Alfie and Harrison Emsley
- =3rd Rev C and Mrs J Blackshaw
- =3rd Mr and Mrs J and A Mear

# LONGHORN AGM AWARDS

The annual awards were presented by President Nicky Lockett at this year's AGM. Congratulations to all exhibitors who competed at the shows in 2022 and the overall winners.



Peter Close received the President's Award from Nicky Lockett at this year's AGM.

## President's Award

This award is presented by the president at the end of the term of office to the member they feel has contributed significantly to the breed. Nicky Lockett presented the award to Peter Close of the Fishwick herd, saying that Peter had always worked hard to promote the breed, keeping classes going at shows when they were waning, encouraging new members into Longhorns, promoting the crossbreeding attributes of Longhorns and always being happy to offer advice when asked. He has served on Council many times over the years and always gave freely of his time to support the Longhorn Society and its members.



# PHOTO COMPETITION

The Society's online photographic competition was held with great success with the overall prize of a Country Girl Media on-farm photo shoot going to Tom Mills. Well done to everyone who took part, below are the results and some of the winning images.

## PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

### Posed calf

=1st Faye Barson, St Osyth herd  
=1st Faye Barson, St Osyth herd

### Large herd

1st Elise Sutton, Stoke herd

### Small herd

1st Nanning Van Wijk, Nanning's herd

### Posed cow

1st Faye Barson, St Osyth herd

### Longhorns at shows

1st Jane Mycock, Sycamore herd

### Posed cow and calf

1st Tom Mills, Wheatlands herd

### Humorous

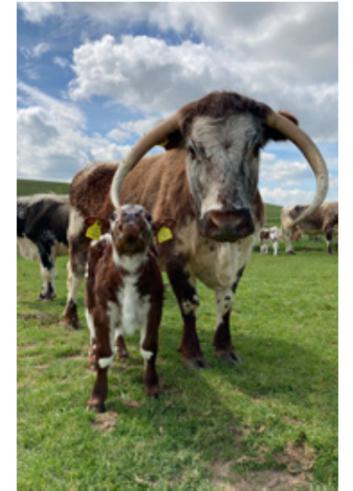
1st Elise Sutton, Stoke herd

### Posed bull

1st Tom Mills, Wheatlands herd

### Longhorns in a commercial setting

1st Sid Hollier, Long Ash herd



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# ANGELA BLOCKLEY

*A tribute by Pat Stanley*

31.05.1954 -

Angela Blockley began breeding Longhorns in 1991 and very quickly her Southfield herd became a force to be reckoned with. The Southfield prefix has been associated with many National Show champions. One of the highlights must be Southfield Lace taking the breed championship at the National Show in 2019 which was on 'home turf' at the Great Yorkshire Show.

Producing junior heifers for the sale ring was one of Angela's specialities, with Southfield Lyric making a breed record of 7600gns at the Society's National Show and Sale at Stoneleigh in 2012.

Angela was also a highly respected cattle judge, officiating all over the country including judging the Longhorns at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh in 2006, where the dress code dictated the wearing of a hat - for the first and last time!

Along with husband David, the couple were familiar faces up and down the country with their coach painted cattle wagon and its signature horn, which would give a blast of recognition to fellow show goers.

Angela was a plain-speaking Yorkshire woman who said it as it was and took no prisoners. However, her caring and loyal side also shone through making her incredibly loved, respected and admired by many who knew her well. One thing was always sure, where you found Angela you would also find David.

Angela and David have given tremendous support to breed Society events and social functions the length and breadth of the country, as well as on trips over to Germany where the breed had become established thanks to the hard work of Sabine Zentis. The couple also represented the breed at the Ploughing Match in Ireland and were always happy to loan cattle for demonstration events such as NBA's Beef Expo.

Angela was a great organiser and ensured everyone was at ease and sorted with their task at hand or simply just making sure they're enjoying themselves. A Society member described her as the breed's 'mother-hen'. Her hospitality was legendary and she played hostess to many events over the years at Southfield Farm including herd visits, judging workshops and technical days. The farm also hosted two joint production sales, with cattle from Fishwick and Blackbrook being taken to Southfield for auction by McCartneys.



Having agreed to take up the position of Society President later in 2022, it is a tragedy for the breed that she is now unable to fulfil that role. Angela has certainly left a lasting impression on the breed as a great enthusiast and improver. She was instrumental in getting the Society to change its rules regarding allowing disbudded cattle in the show ring, not necessarily because she wanted to show disbudded cattle, but because she wanted to ensure cows going to an abattoir had a better end of life experience.

Angela and David have founded a young and enthusiastic dynasty in the form of children Richard and Louisa, and grandchildren Harry, Zara, Clark and Billy who are already making a serious mark in the cattle show world and are carrying on the family legacy with great success in the show ring this year.

We will all miss Angela in our own way. We will miss the interest she took in us and our cattle.

We will miss her wise council. We will miss her company.



# TANFIELD HERD DISPERSES TO A TOP CALL OF 5400GNS

## Averages

1 senior bull £5670  
 10 cows £2084  
 1 senior heifer £1491  
 5 junior heifers £1163  
 (Melton Mowbray Market)

Following a traffic accident in 2021, Mike and Christine Shearstone sadly decided to disperse their Tanfield herd on 28th May at Melton Mowbray Market.

The original foundation heifers were purchased in 2008 and their daughters remain in the herd, together with the main breeding lines of Linton, Raincliffe, Wellhead and Fishwick. The herd enjoyed good sale and showing successes and were sold with a good crop of spring calves at foot.

Bidding started strong straight out of the blocks, with stockbull Riverlands Oink, a Riverlands Knobbler son, selling for 5400gns to Mr J Winnington, Derbyshire.

Top price in the cows was five-year-old Tanfield Riff-raff and her heifer calf, selling for 2550gns to Mr A Buitelaar,

Ireland, who also bought Tanfield Oswego and Tanfield Toblerone, both with calves at foot. Next best price was Tanfield Quattro and her steer calf who sold to Mr T Mills, Derbyshire for 2250gns.

Just one senior heifer was on offer, with Tanfield Uno selling to Mr D Sargeant, Essex for 1420gns.

In the junior heifers Mr Buitelaar's eye was caught by Tanfield Volante, selling to 1240gns, ahead of Tanfield Viola who sold for 1120gn to local farmer Mr D Stannage, who also took home Tanfield Vice Versa and Tanfield Vodka for 1110gns apiece and Tanfield Vixy for 980gns.

# Bollin Valley Longhorns

Herd number 343 Founded 1988

Current Stock Bulls: Gentons Tiger & Fishwick Sherman



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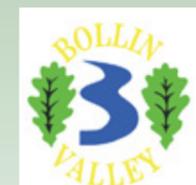
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[tim.harding@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:tim.harding@cheshireeast.gov.uk)



# BLACKBROOK DOES THE DOUBLE AT THE NATIONAL SHOW AT SUFFOLK

It was a double success day for the Blackbrook team of John and Pat Stanley and stockman Lee Wood at this year's National Show at Suffolk as they took the breed and reserve breed championship honours.

Judge for the National Show was Simmental breeder Lynda Burditt who described her female and overall champion, Blackbrook Zither, as "an exceptional, well-balanced female." Born in 2015, this Blackbrook Trapper daughter is out of the Blackbrook Philosopher daughter, Southfield Lyric EX90. No stranger to winning ways she was the 2021 National Online Show champion and Miss Europe and Miss World Bronze winner in the online Champion of the World competition.

Standing reserve to her having come through as male champion was the 2020-born Blackbrook Endeavour, again from the Stanley team. By Blackbrook Baroque,

this one is out of Blackbrook Yasmine EX91, herself a daughter of Blackbrook Uruk-Hai.

Securing the reserve female championship was Gentons Urika, a senior heifer from Bertie Facon. She's by Riverlands Rarebit EX90 and out of the Southfields Nitro EX93 daughter, Southfields Romany VG86.

The Blackbrook team then notched up yet another win by clinching the reserve male championship rosette with the winner from the junior bull class, Blackbrook Field Marshall. By Huntsham Cardinal, he's out of Blackbrook Cora VG88.



◀ Judge Lynda Burditt (left) with the champion and reserve from the Blackbrook herd.



# SHOW RESULTS

## Intermediate bull, born in 2020

- 1st Blackbrook Endeavour - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley
- 2nd Southfield Uproar - Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley

## Junior bull, born after 01.01.2021

- 1st Blackbrook Field Marshall - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley
- 2nd Moorside Valentino - Miss Z Monks

## Cow, in milk or in calf

- 1st Blackbrook Zither - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley
- 2nd Gentons Quirky - Mr B Facon

## Senior heifer

- 1st Gentons Urika - Mr B Facon
- 2nd Southfield Ulana - Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley
- 3rd Southfield Umtali - Mr H Blockley
- 4th Hennisfield Megan - Mr and Mrs M and Y Smith
- 5th Blackbrook Eve - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley

## Junior heifer, born between 01.01.21 and 30.04.21

- 1st Gentons Valentine - Mr B Facon
- 2nd Hennisfield Nadia - Mr and Mrs M and Y Smith
- 3rd Sutton Beau Baby One More Time - Messrs M and Y Smith and Mr J Brewer
- 4th Southfield Velvet - Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley
- 5th Colne Valley Nora - T and S Farms

## Junior heifer, born between 01.05.21 and 31.12.21

- 1st Southfield Voodoo - Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley
- 2nd Hennisfield Nancy - Mr and Mrs M and Y Smith

## Group of Three

- 1st Blackbrook - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley
- 2nd Gentons - Mr B Facon
- 3rd Hennisfield - Mr and Mrs M and Y Smith

## Pairs

- 1st Southfield - Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley
- 2nd Gentons - Mr B Facon
- 3rd Blackbrook - Mr and Mrs J W Stanley
- 4th Hennisfield - Mr and Mrs M and Y Smith



Securing the breed championship was Blackbrook Zither from John and Pat Stanley.



Clinching the male and reserve overall honours was Blackbrook Endeavour from John and Pat Stanley.



The reserve female championship went to Bertie Facon with Gentons Urika.



The reserve male championship went to, Blackbrook Field Marshall from John and Pat Stanley.



Gentons Valentine from Bertie Facon won the junior heifer class.



Southfield Voodoo from David and Angela Blackley won the baby heifer class.



Winners of the Group of Three class from the Blackbrook team.



Winning the Pairs class was the Southfield team from David and Angela Blackley.



- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Breed champion           | <i>Blackbrook Zither</i>           |
| Reserve breed champion   | <i>Blackbrook Endeavour</i>        |
| Male champion            | <i>Blackbrook Endeavour</i>        |
| Reserve male champion    | <i>Blackbrook Field Marshall</i>   |
| Female champion          | <i>Blackbrook Zither</i>           |
| Reserve female champion  | <i>Gentons Urika</i>               |
| Best calf at foot        | <i>Calf of Gentons Quirky</i>      |
| Best junior bull         | <i>Blackbrook Field Marshall</i>   |
| Best junior heifer       | <i>Gentons Valentine</i>           |
| Best overall junior      | <i>Blackbrook Field Marshall</i>   |
| Best group of three      | <i>Mr and Mrs J W Stanley</i>      |
| Best pair                | <i>Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley</i> |
| Best exhibitor bred pair | <i>Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley</i> |

- Reserve interbreed pairs champion
- Reserve native interbreed champion

- Blackbrook Zither and Blackbrook Endeavour*
- Blackbrook Zither*

# ISSAC REIGNS SUPREME AT GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

A tremendous line up of Longhorn cattle were put in front of judge and McCartneys auctioneer Clive Roads at this year's Great Yorkshire Show, cementing the show as one of the best showcases of the breed on the summer show circuit.

Having come through as senior bull winner and male champion, the two-year-old bull, Herbertsherd Issac from young Bertie Stanley went one better to be tapped out as Clive's choice as overall champion. By Southfield Raptor VG87, he's out of Blackbrook Zabrina, herself a Blackbrook Uruk-Hai daughter.

Following Issac all the way from the senior bull class, the Blockley family's Southfield Uprouar then took the reserve overall honours. Born May 2020, this one is by Southfield Qnard VG88 and out of the Blackbrook Philosopher daughter, Southfield Maisy VG85.

The female championship went to this year's National Show champion, Blackbrook Zither from John and Pat Stanley. This 2015-born Blackbrook Trapper daughter is out of Southfield Lyric. She was also named as last year's National Online champion.

Bertie Stanley was then back in action to follow his grandparents through in the female championship to take the reserve female spot with Herbertsherd Honey, a 2019-born daughter of Blackbrook Trapper out of Zabrina again.





◀ Judge Clive Roads with his overall champion from Herbertsherd and the reserve from Southfield.



◀ Male and overall champion, Herbertsherd Issac, from Bertie Stanley.



◀ The reserve male and reserve breed championship went to Southfield Uproar from David and Angela Blockley.



◀ Blackbrook Zither from John and Pat Stanley took the female championship.



◀ The reserve female championship went to Herbertsherd Honey, a half-sister to the overall champion.

## SHOW RESULTS

### Senior bull

- 1st Herbertsherd Issac - *Master Bertie Stanley*
- 2nd Southfield Uproar - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*
- 3rd Blackbrook Endeavour - *Mr and Mrs J W Stanley*
- 4th Gupworthy Thruxton - *Mrs J Grant*

### Junior bull

- 1st Southfield Viper - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*
- 2nd Blackbrook Field Marshall - *Mr and Mrs J W Stanley*
- 3rd Briar Mead Versace - *Mrs V Hopkinson*
- 4th Raincliffe John - *Masters A and H Emsley*
- 5th Newton Flying Dutchman - *Mr D Walker*

### Cow, in milk or in calf

- 1st Blackbrook Zither - *Mr and Mrs J W Stanley*
- 2nd Herbertsherd Honey - *Master Bertie Stanley*
- 3rd Gentons Quirky - *Mr B Facon*
- 4th Carreg Sweetpea - *Mrs J Grant*
- 5th Fishwick Tamarisk - *J Close and Son Ltd*
- 6th Fishwick Paloma - *J Close and Son Ltd*
- 7th Gorse Valentine Rose - *Mrs V Hopkinson*

### Senior heifer

- 1st Southfield Ulana - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*
- 2nd Briar Mead Ultimate Wish - *Mrs V Hopkinson*
- 3rd Southfield Umtali - *Mr H Blockley*
- 4th Gentons Urika - *Mr B Facon*
- 5th Newton Echo Falls - *Mr D Walker*
- 6th Longbridge Ursula - *Mrs J Grant*
- 7th Raincliffe Rosalyn - *Messrs J Emsley and M Cleasby*

### Junior heifer

- 1st Gentons Valentine - *Mr B Facon*
- 2nd Newton Forget Me Not - *Mr D Walker*
- 3rd Southfield Velvet - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*
- 4th Raincliffe Sarah III - *Masters A and H Emsley*
- 5th Newton Flummoxed - *Mr D Walker*
- 6th Raincliffe Spirit - *Masters A and H Emsley*
- 7th Southfield Voodoo ET - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*

### Group of Three

- 1st Blackbrook - *Mr and Mrs J W Stanley*
- 2nd Prospect - *Masters A and H Emsley*
- 3rd Gentons - *Mr B Facon*
- 4th Southfield - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*

### Pairs

- 1st Southfield - *Mr and Mrs D and A Blockley*
- 2nd Herbertsherd - *Master B Stanley*
- 3rd Blackbrook - *Mr and Mrs J W Stanley*
- 4th Gentons - *Mr B Facon*
- 5th Prospect - *Masters A and H Emsley*
- 6th Newton - *Mr D Walker*



◀ Winning the yearling bull class was Southfield Viper from the Blockley family.



◀ Southfield Ulana from David and Angela Blockley won the senior heifer class.



◀ Leading the yearling heifer class was Gentons Valentine from Bertie Facon.

Breed champion	<i>Herbertsherd Issac</i>
Reserve champion	<i>Southfield Uproar</i>
Male champion	<i>Herbertsherd Issac</i>
Reserve male champion	<i>Southfield Uproar</i>
Female champion	<i>Blackbrook Zither</i>
Reserve female champion	<i>Herbertsherd Honey</i>
Best junior bull	<i>Southfield Viper</i>
Best junior heifer	<i>Gentons Valentine</i>
Best overall junior	<i>Southfield Viper</i>

# SHOW WINNERS 2022

Congratulations to everyone who showed cattle this year, here are the champions and reserve champions from the shows that held Longhorn classes with Longhorn panel judges.

## Ashbourne Show

**Champion:** Herbertsherd Honey, Master B Stanley  
**Reserve:** Gentons Valentine, Mr B Facon

## Ashover Show

**Champion:** Herbertsherd Honey, Master B Stanley  
**Reserve:** Cholmondeley Ulysses, Mrs J Mycock

## Brecon Show

**Champion:** Arlebrook Valentina, Mr and Mrs M and BWheeler  
**Reserve:** Arlebrook Valentino, Mr and Mrs M and BWheeler

## Burwarton Show

**Champion:** Arlebrook Valentina, Mr and Mrs M and BWheeler  
**Reserve:** Arlebrook Valentino, Mr and Mrs M and BWheeler

## Derbyshire County Show

**Champion:** Herbertsherd Issac, Master B Stanley  
**Reserve:** Herbertsherd Honey, Master B Stanley

## Garstang Show

**Champion:** Newton Forget Me Not, Mr D Walker  
**Reserve:** Newton Flummoxed, Mr D Walker

## Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show

**Champion:** Berrydown Unice, Mr M Horne  
**Reserve:** Warns Romeo, Mr N Glover



• Gentons Valentine from Bertie Facon took the breed championship at The Royal Welsh Show and Moreton in Marsh Show.

## Hope Show

**Champion:** Cholmondeley Ulysses, Mrs J Mycock  
**Reserve:** Wheatlands Ursula, Mr T Mills

## Lincolnshire Show

**Champion:** Blackbrook Zither, Mr and Mrs JW Stanley  
**Reserve:** Newton Forget Me Not, Mr D Walker

## Moreton in Marsh Show

**Champion:** Gentons Valentine, Mr B Facon  
**Reserve:** Carreg Vagabond, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Northumberland Show

**Champion:** Newton Flying Dutchman, Mr D Walker  
**Reserve:** Harold Unstopabul, Mr H Hodgson

## Pembrokeshire County Show

**Champion:** Carreg Utopia, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn  
**Reserve:** Carreg Vagabond, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Poynton Show

**Champion:** Blackden Unicorn, Mr P Robinson  
**Reserve:** Linton Tangerine, Mrs J Mycock

## Royal Bath and West Show

**Champion:** Carreg Utopia, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn  
**Reserve:** Gupworthy Virosity, Mr and Mrs G and JWollatt



• Winning both championships at the Royal Three Counties and interbreed on the Rare and Minority Day was Gentons Quirky from Bertie Facon.

## Royal Cheshire County Show

**Champion:** Cholmondeley Ulysses, Mrs J Mycock  
**Reserve:** Wheatlands Violet, Mrs J Mycock

## Royal Lancashire Show

**Champion:** Newton Forget Me Not, Mr D Walker  
**Reserve:** Gale Farm Tonga, Mr S D Horrocks

## Royal Three Counties Show

**Champion:** Gentons Quirky, Mr B Facon  
**Reserve:** Carreg Vagabond, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Royal Three Counties Show

**Rare and Minority Day**  
**Champion:** Gentons Quirky, Mr B Facon  
**Reserve:** Carreg Valentine, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Royal Welsh Show

**Champion:** Gentons Valentine, Mr B Facon  
**Reserve:** Carreg Utopia, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Royal Welsh Smallholder Show

**Champion:** Carreg Utopia, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn  
**Reserve:** Carreg Rhonda, Mr and Mrs B and M Llewellyn

## Shropshire County Show

**Champion:** Cholmondeley Ulysses, Mrs J Mycock  
**Reserve:** Wheatlands Violet, Mrs J Mycock

## Staffordshire Show

**Champion:** Herbertsherd Issac, Master B Stanley  
**Reserve:** Herbertsherd Honey, Master B Stanley

## Westmorland Show

**Champion:** Gale Farm Uist, Mr S D Horrocks  
**Reserve:** Gale Farm Rona, Mr S D Horrocks



• Winning at the Royal Welsh Smallholder Show, as well as Royal Bath and West and Pembrokeshire County Show was Carreg Utopia from the Llewellyn family.



# REGIONAL NEWS



## Midland and Northern Group visit to Upper Stanway Farm, Church Stretton, Shropshire

Having met him at the Bollin Valley Partnership visit in August where he was part of the team representing Buitelaar Production Ltd, Claire Saxby of the Midland Breeders' Group asked Ed Riley if the group could visit his farm to learn more about how pedigree registered Longhorns bulls are integral to his business.

A visit was duly arranged and on a sunny day in November some 30 members headed to Church Stretton in Shropshire. David, Ed and Ruth Riley farm 1100 acres of grassland and arable and currently have around 600 head of cattle. Half of these are being reared and finished for Buitelaar using regenerative farming methods. There is a significant arable acreage and diversification businesses including holiday lets and a green burial ground.

Livestock have always been part of the farm business, with a commercial suckler herd using Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford bulls. With margins being squeezed and TB a constant problem, a new strategy was required and eight years ago the Riley family started rearing Jersey cross calves on contract to Buitelaar. They started with some 100 calves and have gradually grown the numbers, with major acceleration in the last five years bringing the total headage to around 600. Much of this growth has been made possible by the construction of a dedicated calf rearing unit which opened for business in 2022.

All cattle are taken through to finishing and the Riley's run two distinct systems - pure Holstein bulls taken through to finishing at 14 months on a conventional ration-based system and Longhorn sired steers and heifers, finishing at 21 months on a forage-based, grazed system.

Calves come onto the farm at three to four weeks of age as a batch of 140 from Buitelaar's collection centre in Wrexham where they have been weighed, graded and quality controlled. During their stay in the calf rearing unit they are vaccinated for IBR, disbudded and the bull calves are castrated. Calves are fed three litres of milk both morning and evening, along with calf pellets and adlib straw before being gradually weaned at day 42.



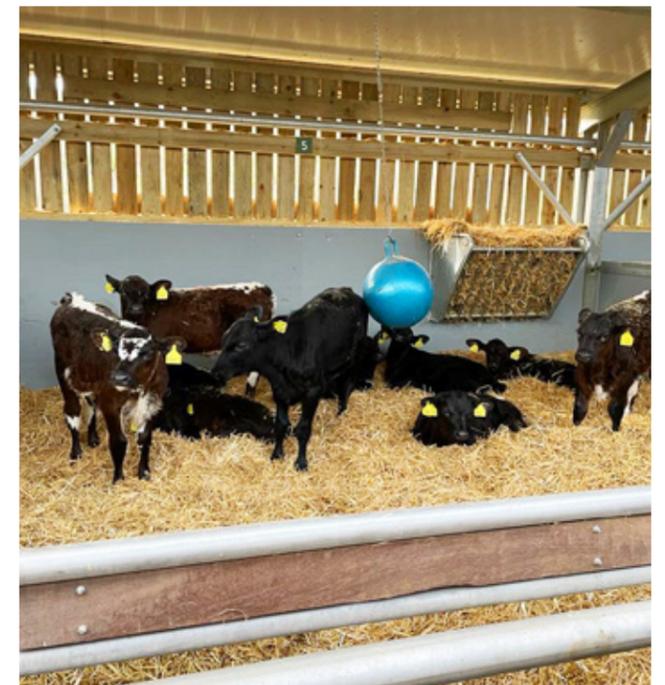
From the calf house we saw a group of mostly Longhorn sired calves who were six months old. They had been through the calf rearing unit and had been turned out two months ago onto a herbal ley. They would be rotated around this ley for another few weeks before moving onto stubble turnips for overwintering. Currently weighing around 230kg, they were on a small amount of cake to keep them 'honest' and Ed expected them to finish at around 23 months.

We then moved to another farm where the finishing cattle were housed. The Longhorn and other native sired cattle are housed at about 100 days before finishing on a ration of good quality forage, straw and about 2kg of barley per head per day. We saw five Longhorn sired finished cattle that were due to go two days after our visit, all 21 months old and weighing the target weight of 650kg, so around 1.0kg - 1.1kg per day daily liveweight gain over their lifetime, mostly off forage.

The Buitelaar contract pays on weight rather than grade, but most Longhorn sired cattle are grading O+. The Longhorns are outperforming Aberdeen-Angus sired cattle as they have good growth rates,

excellent conversion of grass into flesh and have a good temperament. Ed is really pleased with the way the Longhorn sired calves have performed and is a complete convert to them. He emphasised that good genetics play their part and he encouraged the Society and its members to ensure only quality bulls are registered and supplied to the dairy farms that are part of the Buitelaar scheme.

In September a Longhorn sired regeneratively farmed 28-day dry aged sirloin won 'Best Beef Product' and 'Best Red Meat Product' of the year at the Meat Management Industry awards, really putting Longhorn sired beef on the map which bodes well for the future of Buitelaar's Heritage Beef initiative and shows how well the Longhorn can perform as a crossbred, delivering on growth as well as taste.



## SHOWING WORKSHOP NORTHERN AND MIDLAND GROUPS

On Sunday 15 May 2022 the Northern and Midland Longhorn Breeders Groups joined forces and held a showing workshop and invited The Cow Wash and Thea Woollatt to the home of the Longbridge herd of Longhorns at Easingwold, York, North Yorkshire by kind invitation of Jane Grant and Trish McDonnell.

The day started with 20 club members arriving for coffee before handing the day's events over to Thea where she explained the day's schedule and a brief talk about The Cow Wash business she runs from home in Chepstow. We were then given a de-constructed rope halter each and asked to put it back together and talked about the many different showing products there are out there to be used.

Lunch of home-made, home reared Longbridge Longhorn burgers cooked to perfection on the BBQ was provided by Jane and Trish with a donation asked for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal which raised £280. Thank you for all the donations from members for a worthy cause.

With so much information and tips to take on board the workshop was brought to an end and we all boarded a trailer and went out on a tour of the Longbridge herd to view cows and calves and heifers at the grass.

A stock judging exercise also took place using three junior bulls and Pat Stanley was appointed as master judge to place them, before giving her reasons for her placings. Jan Blackshaw and two young members Max Tesseyman and Harry Saxby agreed with Pat to take the prizes.

A huge thank you goes to Jane Grant, Trish McDonnell and Alisha Lack, as well as all the helpers behind the scenes at Longbridge for hosting and providing a great day and lunch.



Thankyou also must go to Thea Woollatt for her educational day and training.

Every member present went away having learnt something new and can only go on to progress presenting their own Longhorns in the show ring this summer.

## Midland Longhorn Breeders Summer Social and AGM 2022

Sunday 29th May saw the Midland Longhorn Breeders Club gather for their AGM and social. Though there weren't many of us, reports back were of a good, productive meeting. A good bit of vigour and enthusiasm appeared around the table with some good ideas to move forward with.

Following the meeting we were treated to a talk and tour around the theory and figures of Sue Hallifield herd of Stabiliser cattle. Sue is incredibly passionate about the Stabilisers and is working to improve, change and move forward all the time.

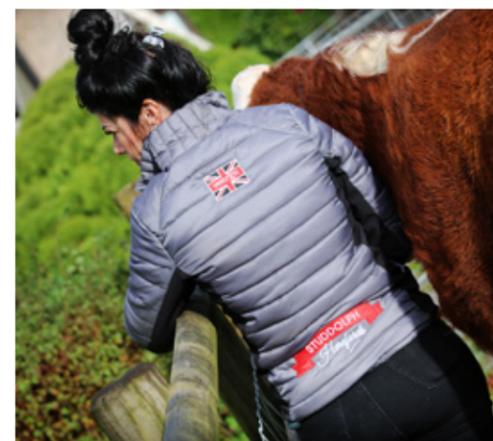
Sue has 130 pedigree organic Stabiliser cows, selling breeding stock and calving some 40 heifers a year. These were great animals, with a uniform stamp about them. The calves looked good and were doing very well. The theory behind the breed was interesting, if a little mind blowing to the novices amongst us.

Sue runs 700 acres of organic land from The National Trust, which is also under stewardship. It's mainly wood pasture and species rich grass. Alongside the Stabilisers Sue runs 24 pedigree organic Longhorn cows, with offspring put through their own farm butchery, as well as 450 organic New Zealand Texel ewes.

It was a lovely afternoon and made a real change to have a look at another breed and see different ways of bringing cattle on. It did us all good to socialise again, remove the blinkers and appreciate someone else's farming practises and passions.

VIEW THE FULL RANGE AT

COUNTRYGIRLMEDIA.CO.UK/CLOTHING-RANGE



## DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

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