



BRITISH WHITE CATTLE SOCIETY

SEPT 2025

NEWS

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15 September**

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Melton Mowbray**

**Heritage herd
rediscovered in
Australia**

Contact BWCS Breed Secretary Sarah Cook

01954 232796 • 07771 333303 • admin@britishwhitecattle.co.uk



To stay up to date between newsletters, visit our website
britishwhitecattle.co.uk

Follow us
on social
media for
more!



Notices for members

BWCS Autumn Show & Sale
Melton Mowbray, 12 & 13 September
See page 6 for details - Catalogues
available from Melton Mowbray
Market or on the BWCS website:
www.britishwhitecattle.co.uk

Bluetongue Virus (BTV) updates
Keep an eye on the latest information
and movement restrictions regarding
BTV by visiting www.gov.uk and
searching 'Bluetongue'.
**Bluetongue is notifiable disease which
you are legally obliged to report to
APHA, even if you only suspect that an
animal may be affected.**
If you suspect BTV, report it
immediately by calling Defra on 03000
200 301. In Wales, call 0300 303 8268.

Type Classification
To book a Type Classification
appointment for your herd, contact
Jackie Clark at NBDC.
01923 695208 jackieclark@nbdc.uk
**[www.britishwhitecattle.co.uk/
type-classification](http://www.britishwhitecattle.co.uk/type-classification)**



**AGM to be hosted by James &
Katie Allen, Great Cotmarsh
Farm on Sat 4 October**

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Tidy up your Grassroots Online Herd Record

Keep your herd record up to date in the Grassroots Online database by
checking that you have completed all of the following animal information:

☒ Births ☒ Deaths ☒ Castrates ☒ Transfers

**Making sure that your record is up to date will help us to complete accurate
breed analysis used to determine population size, kinship, and much more,
so please take a few minutes to check yours!**

Grassroots Online Login Page > <https://breeds.grassroots.co.uk/BRWH>

BWCS AGM 2025

GREAT COTMARSH FARM

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

PRE-AGM DINNER: FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER

Sally Pussey's Inn, Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8ET

Arrive 7pm to eat at 7.30pm, order on the evening

Informal dinner, all welcome!

MEETING & HERD VISIT: SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

Book now: £20 per person (incl. VAT)

Great Cotmarsh Farm, Broad Town, Swindon SN4 7RA

Arrive 10am, AGM to begin 10.30am prompt

Lunch provided by Oink! Catering

Tour of the Dupree herd and Great Cotmarsh Farm in the afternoon, to include a look at the brand new Cotmarsh Oak Bark Tannery project

BOOK YOUR PLACES NOW

CONTACT BREED SECRETARY SARAH COOK

07771 333303 | admin@britishwhitecattle.co.uk

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW MANY IN YOUR PARTY!



Annual members' meeting & catch-up



National Herd Competition presentations



BWCS show cattle of the year awarded



Herd visit and farm tour, James & Katie Allen



Great opportunity to meet fellow members!





Executive Committee nominations needed by 15 September

Having last been elected to the Committee in 2022, Angie Hamilton (Dallyashes), Vivien St Joseph (Tollesbury), and James Allen (Dupree) are all eligible for re-election in 2025, if they wish to stand again.

In addition, Leslie Cook (Albany) was also last elected to the Committee in 2022, but was since elected as Vice President, therefore leaving one further member needing to be nominated and elected in 2025 to retain the Committee's structure of 12 members, plus the President and Vice President.

A member may nominate any current member of the Society for election to the Executive Committee, which will take place at the Annual General Meeting – see BWCS Constitution & Governance listed in the Herd Book.

Any nominations (further to those listed above) must have been received by the Breed Secretary, in writing or by email, **no later than Monday 15 September** to be considered for election in 2025.

Send nominations to:

Breed Secretary
British White Cattle Society
Albany Farm
Fen End, Over
Cambridge CB24 5NE

Or by email to:

admin@britishwhitecattle.co.uk

Executive Committee



President
Nell Matheson
**Elected 2023 and
eligible for re-
election in 2025**



Vice President
Leslie Cook
**Elected 2023 and
eligible for re-
election in 2025**

**Elected 2022
Eligible for re-election in 2025**
Angie Hamilton (Dallyashes)
Vivien St Joseph (Tollesbury)
James Allen (Dupree)
— VACANCY —

Elected 2023
David Wright (Castleton)
Paul Pennington (Oldington)
Elayna Astbury (Marshbrook)
Anne-Marie Hamilton (Woodbastwick)

Elected 2024
Henry Cator (Salhouse) CHAIRMAN
Brian Palmer (Porlock)
Keith Harding (Templar)
James Osborne (Woodfield)

22ND TRADITIONAL & NATIVE BREEDS *Show & Sale*

**SEPT
12 & 13**

CONTACT BWCS OR MELTON MARKET

CATALOGUE OUT NOW!



Cattle show begins 12pm Fri 12 Sept

Music & Hog Roast Friday evening
(ticket only, contact Market Office)

Cattle sale starts 11am Sat 13 Sept

CONTACT BWCS FOR UNBIASED BUYING ADVICE,
FREE KINSHIP REPORTS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

CONTACT US:
Office: 01664 562971
www.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk

**Melton
Mowbray
Market**

Heritage herd rediscovered in Australia



The country along the Macquarie River between Dubbo and Narromine is so rich that riverfront cattle growers such as Andrew and Kerrie Martin of Dulla Dulla Pastoral Company usually don't have to do much to finish their animals before sending them to market. In poorer weather, they might add some barley or cotton seed to their usual lucerne or silage – making them “fat and shiny” – but generally the land has provided. That changed in 2019, when a three-year drought brought many farmers in Central West NSW to their knees. Luckily, the Martins had farmed the site since 1885, and Andrew understood that diversity was crucial to survival: Dulla Dulla grows wheat, oats, faba beans, lucerne, chickpeas, canola, pigeon peas and cotton on a rotational basis as well as running self-shedding meat sheep, meat goats and beef cattle, including British Whites.

The mix won Andrew the Australian Farmer of the Year Award for Diversity in 2019, and was a key element in ensuring the concern would live to farm another day. Nevertheless, the Martins were forced to sell all Dulla Dulla's meat sheep, including breeders, and like everyone else, had to significantly reduce cattle numbers to survive. From a combined herd of 300 or so, most of

their Black Angus and French Limousin went to market. But they were reluctant to part with their British Whites – a decision that was based on practicality as much as sentiment: “Our British White cattle do so much better than other European breeds in Australia,” Kerrie says. “They are white with black points, which means when other darker coloured breeds are under trees trying to get away from the heat and flies, the British White are still out grazing. Their white coats and black points protect them from our harsh summers.” They also forage better than other breeds. They will graze where other cattle don't and eat a wider variety of forage. And they have a good dairy history; their milk harkens back to their dairy days. It's richer and more prolific than other breeds, so their calves do better.”

The unfussy foraging was important during the drought, when finding hay supplies became almost impossible. Kerrie kept the British Whites going by hunting out feed spots, including along the roadside. But it was still touch and go: stock numbers were pared back to a minimum and if an animal was not true to type, or didn't meet all their selection criteria, it had to go. Things returned to some kind of normality by 2023 and now Kerrie can see the gift in the measures

the drought forced them to take: “It was a blessing in a way,” she says. “The farm got down to its best breeders.” They now have two separate British White herds of around 41 cows and heifers, with at least another 36 or so calves on the way, which will take their numbers to about 80 animals, the two herds running with unrelated bulls, and Kerrie says their herd would rival any of the animals that British White breeders proudly photograph and post on social media.

The British Whites were the legacy of Andrew's Auntie Meg, who had acquired them about four decades previously in a dispersal sale. “Meg bred winning Corriedale Sheep as well as some mixed breed cattle, and also used to buy weaner steers from nearby dairies to continue to feed and fatten up for sale,” Kerrie says. “Sometime during the 1980s, Meg became interested in British White cattle as they seemed to be good all-rounders, in that they could be used for meat as well as milk. Dulla Dulla used to employ more than 20 people then, so they needed their own supply of meat, milk and eggs.”

Meg started small, with 20-30 animals and the family became so attached to them that Andrew's father, David, now 90, became very protective of them during the drought sell-off: “You're not going to get rid of the British Whites are you?” he would ask his son anxiously. There's a real sense of legacy at Dulla Dulla; a deep respect for the past. “Many traditions remain,” Kerrie says, “such as keeping operational the very first tractors ever bought, and morning tea for all family and staff at 10am each weekday. Keeping the British Whites, because Meg loved them so, is part of that – a lifestyle, love of the land kind of thing”, she says. They call the British Whites their “heritage herd”, but the loyalty to the breed also has its very practical side.

Aunt Meg wanted them for their positive qualities: seeing them as good mothers, with good milk, and an easy-going nature, qualities that are still important for Kerrie. “They graze better and provide better milk, and in my opinion, the meat tastes better,” she says. Kerrie is in the process of trawling through the many boxes of old farm records to see if they can identify when Meg bought the cattle, and where from. She has spent the past seven years selectively breeding the British Whites to achieve traits as “true to type” as possible. “We are looking for good tempered, good mothering and good grazing diversity.”

Assisted by the British White Cattle Society of Australia, the Martins are looking at registering their herd and are investigating its history, “going back to the first bull”, to ascertain if any of the animals have the bloodlines that would qualify them for entry into the Australian Herd Book and at what grade. Adding their herd to the book would help give “this amazing breed a little more notoriety”, and significantly boost the Australian herd size Kerrie says, and help to get the message out about their advantages over other breeds.

Their reasons are twofold: to continue to foster Auntie Meg's legacy and to support the British White breed in Australia. There is also the commercial angle: the Martins intend to continue to increase their herd size “in the hope that one day we will achieve the same (or better) price per kilo as we do for our Angus cattle”, Kerrie says. “Today's consumer is looking for a quality, well-cared for product that they know and can trust the source, and that is what we aim to achieve. It would be terrific if one day ‘British White Burger’ rolled off the tongue as easily as ‘Angus burger’.”

This article was first published by the BWCSA in their July 2025 newsletter.



CATTLE FOR SALE

MEMBERS' ADVERTS

BULL FOR SALE & WANTED

Bull calf Woodlands Samson, born Feb 2025, s. Alcroft Gladiator (EX91), d. De Beauvoir Sparkle (VG85) which, due to space on the farm, would need to be castrated if not sold fairly soon. He is a promising calf which we would like to offer entire if anyone is interested. We are also looking to hire a bull for our two cows, so if there are any members who would have a bull available for hire over the next few months, please get in touch! **David Jones, Kent 07974 0251421 david.jones@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org**



WOODLANDS SAMSON

BULL FOR SALE

Amaroo Pear Drop, born 2018, has sired some excellent calves, some of which are now in our herd which is why we need to move him on. He produces easy birthing calves which are quickly up and sucking. Very docile bull, halter broken & easy to handle. He has been shown by his previous owner and just recently one of his daughters was crowned breed champion at the Shropshire County Show.

Sue Kendrick, Leics 07981 356388 suek@bushwellfarm.co.uk



AMAROO PEAR DROP

MAIDEN HEIFERS FOR SALE

Three homebred pedigree registered maiden heifers, born in 2024 and all sired by Tollesbury Cornelius, lovely quiet temperaments and are easy to work with. TB4 herd, BVD tested. Would really like to move them on before the winter due to needing to reduce the size of our herd.

Jean Fuller, Essex 07816 190188 brickwallfarm@gmail.com



WOODLAND MAIDEN HEIFER

HEIFERS FOR SALE

Plaster Pitts Herd (established c.1975) TB4. Selling for herd reduction due to old age (owner not cows). Three heifers born in 2023 (of which one grading up C) running with Aberdeen Angus bull, plus two maiden heifers born in 2024 (one grade C). All registered, and all sired by Faygate Wesley. **Rupert Hildyard, Yorks 07870 362002 rhildyard@gmail.com**

BULL FOR SALE Elgany Elgar, born Feb 2024, has been shown successfully at the Royal Three Counties (Reserve Male Champion) and Hanbury Show (Breed Champion) in 2025. **Mervyn Forster, West Mids 07856 735972 mervynforster@hotmail.co.uk**

BREEDING CATTLE FOR SALE

Homebred bull Bulby Holm Oak (VG88), born in July 2022 by Frilsham Cow Parsley, has been Type Classified and passed BWCS Bull Inspection, ready to work. Also for sale to keep our herd at a manageable size are a selection of homebred females. **Sue Bevan, Lincs 07791 976044 susanbevan@btinternet.com**

BULL FOR SALE Frilsham Cow Parsley, born 2018, has left us some nice calves and is now ready for moving on. **Graham Bown, Derbyshire 07813 888229 hazelhurstfarm@gmail.com**

FEMALES FOR SALE Five homebred pedigree females, born from 2019-2022 and all sired by Lordswood Jack. Lovely temperaments and easy to work with. **Philip Liddell, Hamps 07974 444027 dionne@liddellfarms.co.uk**

YOUNG BULLS FOR SALE Tollesbury Horatio, born Feb 2024, sired by Tollesbury Pirate (EX91), well grown and well muscled, halter trained and ready to work. Tollesbury Dragon, born March 2024, sired by Castleton Brenin (EX95),

quiet, thickset bull also halter trained and ready to work. Herd is TB4, BVD free, IBR vaccinated, and Johnes and Neospora certified. Both bulls BVD vaccinated. **Vivien St Joseph, Essex 01621 868531 / 07747 847431 vivienstjoseph@gmail.com**

SMALL HERD FOR SALE Three registered cows (two full pedigree and one B grade which is scanned in calf to Dadley Perseus) plus one C grade heifer for sale. BVD vaccinated. **Anthony Landsborough, Shrops 07999 441605 anthonylandsborough@gmail.com**

YOUNG BULL FOR SALE De Beauvoir Smart Spyridon, born January 2024 and sired by Tollesbury Sir Pellinore (VG87). Well-muscled and well-grown, his dam is De Beauvoir Smart Sally (VG87), the Female and Reserve Breed Champion at South Suffolk Show 2025. **Angela Dunn, Essex 07969 815330 angeladunn321@gmail.com**

YOUNG BULL FOR SALE Longstore Apollo, born August 2023, sired by Woodfield Bracken and out of Tismans Orange Blossom. Recently passed BWCS Bull Inspection and ready to get to work. **Denise Long, Wiltshire 07599 592420 longstorefarming2022@outlook.com**

SMALL HERD FOR SALE Eight spring-calving cows with calves at foot, plus stock bull and handful of 2024-born heifer calves. **Sam Goody, Surrey 07456 074298**

BULL FOR HIRE Alcroft Davos (born 2018) available for 1-2 year hire. **Melinda Tamlyn, Essex 07801 846674 m.tamlyn@outlook.com**

HEIFERS FOR SALE Genuine reduction sale of 5 homebred British White maiden heifers. **Mervyn Forster, West Mids 07856 735972 mervynforster@hotmail.co.uk**

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