

Strong entries at popular sheepdog trials

Sheepdog handlers from across Devon and Cornwall came together on Bodmin Moor last weekend for the Hamatethy trial.

Held near the village of St Breward on Sunday, the day kicked off with a 28-strong open driving class, judged by Miss J Summers.

Claiming the class with a score of 86 (OLF) was Mrs C Worgan from Chulmleigh and her dog, Lee, followed by Mr N Dalgarno from Tregony and Roy in second place, also with 86 points.

Mrs C Worgan also took third with her second dog, Holly, on 85, with Mr J Carter from Delabole in fourth with Bob (83 OLF). Mrs J Harper from Jacobstow and Scruff in fifth (83) and Mr J Watson from Postbridge and Kelly in sixth place (81).

Judging both sections of the maltese cross was Mr T Hopper, which saw Mr J Watson and Bob win the novice class on 71 points. Second place went to Mr J Carter and Jack on 59, while Mr J Watson and Roy took third (58) and Mr I Mackay and Jess were fourth (49).

Mr J Watson also won the open maltese cross, this time with Don on 64 points. He then took second with Zac on 63 points, with Mr R Edwards and Brad filling third place on their score of 55.

Miss R Ridge and Mac won the young handlers class on 55 points, with Mr W Carter and Joe in second on 46 points.

New director for Devon County Show

Organisers of the Devon County Show have appointed a new honorary show director.

Stewart Stevens takes up the reins for the 2019 show and beyond, replacing David Parish who retired in June.

Mary Quicke, chairman of council of the Devon County Agricultural Association (DCAA), is delighted.

“Stewart is one of the most respected individuals on the agricultural show circuit,” she said. “We have no doubt that his vast experience and wealth of knowledge will add tremendous value to Devon County Show’s progression.”

Commenting on his years’ worth of experience with the Devon County Show, Mr Stevens explained: “I’ve worked across all areas of the Devon County Show in several different capacities, for over forty years so it’s very much in my blood. I’ve competed, judged, and sat on all sorts of different committees from horse shows to health and safety. I also have a lot to thank the show for, having met my wife Claire there!”

“What strikes me about the Devon County Show is how well all the team pull together – from the office staff to the stewards through to the hundreds of volunteers who work round the clock to make this great event happen.”

Historic cattle breed finally recognised as UK native cow



It has taken a small number of dedicated breeders many years to bring the Albian breed back from the brink

PHOTO: ALBION CATTLE SOCIETY

Surviving against the odds, an historic cattle breed has been formally recognised for the first time since the 1960s.

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) has welcomed the very rare Albian cattle onto its watchlist as a recognised UK native rare breed.

Originally from Derbyshire, where they were known as “Bakewell Blues” or “Blue Albions”, in recent years the Albian Cattle Society decided to lose the ‘blue’ to better reflect the variety of colours that can be found within the breed.

It has taken a small number of dedicated breeders many years to bring back the breed from the brink and prove its continued existence throughout the last century.

During the 1960s there was a deadly Foot and Mouth out-

break which decimated many Albian herds. This was coupled with the importation of dairy breeds such as the Holstein which proved very popular; at the expense of dual-purpose breeds like the Albian.

Despite these set-backs, a handful of breeders kept the breed going against the odds, swapping bulls to keep the animals from becoming too inbred. In recent times, breeders have worked hard to recover the breed and increase its popularity.

Susannah Mannerings, secretary of the Albian Cattle Society, inherited a herd of Albions from her mother, Dinah Whittingham, eight years ago and with it a determination to see the breed recognised.

She said: “They are just a wonderful breed; so pleasing

to the eye, with lovely temperaments; it is great to honour the debt of the Albian breeders of the past and now to be able to carry these genetics forward.”

The RBST Watchlist is a document showing the rarity of the UK’s native breeds of mammal.

Every year, RBST collects data from over 130 breed societies, including the number of males and females registered. This data is used, along with a multiplier, to estimate the number of registered breeding females in the UK for each breed.

This is used to place each breed either in one of the five categories on the Watchlist, or in the Other Native Breeds category, for those that are not rare but still fulfill our criteria for a native breed.

Gail Sprake, chairman of the RBST, added: “Here at RBST we proudly boast that no breed has become extinct since we formed in 1973, but we could so easily could have been proven wrong by failing to recognise these cattle.

“The Albions have had dramatic reversal of fortune since their heyday in the 1920’s, but we hope that this recognition will herald the start of a new chapter for the breed.”

Countryfile presenter Adam Henson joined as a new breeder earlier this year, purchasing a herd which now lives at Cotswold Farm Park.

The National Trust also look after an historic herd at High Lickbarrow near Windermere, which means the public can admire and support this incredibly endangered breed.

Kerry to help farmers protect businesses

Leading rural insurer NFU Mutual has appointed Kerry Hogan to the role of assistant group secretary, based at its Plymouth branch.

In her new role Kerry will provide expertise to help commercial and farming customers protect and develop their businesses.

Kerry joined NFU Mutual 13 years ago and has risen through the ranks to her current role as Agent and NFU Assistant Group Secretary.

Kerry said: “Having started my career at the Plymouth branch of NFU Mutual back in 2005, I was incredibly excited when the role of assistant group secretary came up. As a business partner in Plymouth I understand the challenges of running a successful rural business and am very much looking forward to getting stuck in.

“This is a great opportunity, and I looking forward to working with our customers – many of whom have insured with NFU Mutual for generations – to help them protect their businesses in today’s challenging business environment”.

Kerry will specialise in larger commercial clients, retail, farming and estates sectors, and will work alongside

‘I understand the challenges of running a rural business’

Kerry Hogan

Plymouth’s senior agent, Jo Young, who also has extensive experience in the commercial and farming sectors.

Chris Roberts, Regional Manager for NFU Mutual South West, said: “We’re an insurer with over 100 years’ experience insuring farm and rural businesses and have a hard-earned reputation for providing excellent customer service.

“Kerry’s appointment reinforces our Plymouth team and will enable the branch to further develop our strong relationships with farms and businesses to protect them from the impact of storms, floods, fire, theft – and many more perils.”

Kerry has experience supporting farm businesses and represents NFU Mutual at many farming events. She has also got ‘hands on’ farming experience including working on a large dairy farm.

The NFU Mutual Plymouth branch is also expanding its work within the community and local industries. It plays a key part in promoting farming and is a headline sponsor of the Devon Life Food and Drink Awards 2018.

The Plymouth branch specialises in rural insurance covering Plymouth, Dartmoor and the surrounding areas, to Tamar Valley into South East Cornwall.

To speak to an expert at NFU Mutual Plymouth, call 01752 696101 or find out more at www.nfumutual.co.uk/branches/plymouth/.



Cornish farming family are through to national finals of prestige contest

A Cornish farming family have made it through to the final round of judging in a coveted national competition.

The Bradleys, from Bradley Farm, in Hallworthy, have been named as one of the Southern regional finalists in this year’s ForFarmers Excellence in Farming Awards.

Husband and wife, Graham and Kate, along with Graham’s mother, Ann Bradley, will go head-to-head with farmers from the north of the

country in the Youngstock Producer of the Year Award category.

The couple, along with their three sons Sam, Harry and Luke, milk 900 Holstein Friesian cows that average an annual yield of 9,800 litres per cow, with milk going to Dairy Crest, but their youngstock rearing is what really sets the business apart. Each year they produce around 896 calves either as replacement heifers for their herd or as British

Blue cross calves sold off the farm.

ForFarmers’ account manager Matt Jenkin, who nominated the family for the award, commended their attention to detail and the health of their animals. “The Bradley family are making the most of the genetic potential of the calves,” he said.

“By achieving excellent growth rates in the first 12 weeks they are improving the metabolic programming of

these heifers and seeing the results in the first lactation as they are healthier and more productive.”

Awards judge and ForFarmers Youngstock Specialist, Emma Moore, summarised her visit to Bradley Farm, noting that calf health and hygienic facilities were particularly striking.

“I was very impressed with the overall hygiene in all groups: all ages of calves look fantastic with good condition,

with clean and shiny coats and good frame development,” she commented.

“Overall, this farm has very good colostrum management and early nutrition. All groups are small with limited age gaps and are kept in very clean, well maintained facilities with good ventilation.

“It is clear an emphasis is placed on good calf management from birth to the first calving and it is shown in the quality of the youngstock.”

New contract to ensure free range fairness

The British Free Range Egg Producers Association (BFREPA) is to create a model supply contract for its members to use with packers to ensure fairness and confidence throughout the sector.

Speaking at the organisation’s annual conference in Coventry last week, BFREPA Chief Executive Robert Gooch said many of the contracts he had seen from producers “aren’t worth the paper they are written on”.

Mr Gooch asked BFREPA members to send him copies of their contracts so terms could be assessed by specialist contract lawyers.

With new entrants building their first sheds and existing businesses expanding, Mr Gooch said it was vital all producers had rock-solid agreements in place.

A clear commitment to egg price for the duration of the contract, or terms linked to the fluctuating price of feed, will be key components.

Other elements to be examined will be notice periods and procedures for the transfer of accreditation scheme

‘Our vision is that all free-range egg businesses have fair, meaningful contracts’

Robert Gooch – BFREPA

rights at the end of contract. BFREPA aims to launch the model contract by the end of the year.

“Supply contracts are the foundation of most free range egg businesses but it is alarming to see so many examples with no reference to the price producers will be paid for their product,” Mr Gooch said.

“My members need to know where they stand so they can continue to invest in their businesses to make them more efficient and maintain the excellent standards of hen welfare we see on British free range farms.

“Our vision is that all free range egg businesses have fair, meaningful contracts which guarantee a supply of high quality free range eggs to consumers at a sustainable price for producers.”

The announcement follows a tough summer when the farmgate price of free range eggs fell due to oversupply while drought conditions increased feed bills by 50% for some producers.



Gwen Renfree, pictured left at the Liskeard Show earlier this year, with her prize-winning Beltex group, landed the sheep section crown for the fourth year in succession

Agricultural Waste - FarmClear Service

The implementation of **Waste Management Regulation 2005** now means that 'on farm' burning or burying of Wastes is no longer permitted.

Farmers will have a duty of care to dispose of their wastes through a controlled Waste Disposal Route.

At Peake GB Limited we can cater for your disposal needs on **Non-Hazardous Waste** items such as Silage Wrap, Feed Bags, Crop Covers, Herbicide Drums, Fertiliser Bags, Net Wrap, Baler Twine and Drainage Pipe.

We can also Dispose of **Hazardous Waste** items such as Chemicals, Medicines, Aerosols, Oil, Tyres, Syringes and Blades.

Tel: 01579 342212
Fax: 01579 344520
www.peake-gb.co.uk

Peake GB
FarmClear Service