



**HCCW**

[www.hccw.org.uk](http://www.hccw.org.uk)

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 41

**Editor:** Annie May  
[annie@themay.co.uk](mailto:annie@themay.co.uk)

# New Year 2009 Edition



Cover by Tom Morgan



## Editorial Shiny new HCCW!

It is with very great pleasure that I am finally taking a back seat. The new people on the committee have already proved themselves to be more efficient, able and organised than I ever was. I will still continue to edit this Newsletter until someone tells me to stop. Geoff will still be the Show co-ordinator for the Club by virtue of his work in promoting the Highland Breed over the last 20 years.

Therefore, I'd like to give a very warm welcome the arrival of the new leaders of HCCW's committee:

**Liz McCombe**, the new Chair, has leadership qualities that most management gurus would give their eye teeth for and she's got plenty of good ideas as we have already seen with the updated constitution. It was her initiative and hard work that made that a reality. It means that the Club can function more smoothly in the future. She has proved to be a real breath of fresh air on committee over the last year, bringing a new perspective to Club management.

The same can be said for **Mo Morgan**, the new Secretary, who has been in post little under a year and already the efficiency quotient has increased out of all recognition. Mo works in the back ground much of the time but she now distributes the Newsletter by email and prints it out as well as keeping tabs on all Club business. I can tell you from first hand experience that the printing and collating of the newsletter is time consuming and frustrating. Mo is sailing through it at the moment. Just hope she continues to do so as we are all indebted to her, especially me!

**Judith Holland**, is a long standing member of HCCW and is our new Treasurer. She is an Accountant and is Treasurer for a number of charitable organisations. She was Accountant for the Botanic gardens of Wales and is now working for the Llandeilo Archaeological Trust. We are very fortunate that she has consented to take us on and I know that our finances will be very safe hands.

The committee is, once more, investigating the possibility of reactivating the website. With any luck, this will mean that those of us who like to operate online can find out what's going on with HCCW without having to ring a member of the committee and engage in a long conversation just to discover when the next event is happening can do so.

Contact details for the committee members, as usual, are on the back of the Newsletter. This means that you can ring us for a long conversation if you want!

Annie

### In this Issue:

- ➔ Forthcoming events
- ➔ Oban
- ➔ The World According to Highland Cattle
- ➔ Annual Christmas Dinner and AGM
- ➔ Committee matters
- ➔ Photo Gallery
- ➔ Classifieds



### Oban Show and Sale

There were a number of HCCW members at Oban in October. Some of them looking for beasts and others there just for "the crack". There is something about Oban that is worth just that. It is a chance to socialise and have a bit of a holiday. (see above picture of the Welsh contingent at the dinner and Cailleidh on Sunday night)

There was a visible overseas presence this year. Yann Guisnel from France bought a baker's dozen to take back to France. Prices were on whole not good, even though, as usual, the good beasts sold well. Highest price was 4000 gns to Ewan McKay for a yearling heifer. Bulls made very little, 350 gns for a senior bull and 300 gns for a yearling bull. But then this is a female show and sale and one would not expect the best male animals to be forward. I noticed that there were quite a lot of unsold beasts.

Oban is a chance for a short break; but it is also a good place to keep your face in the frame if you're serious about the business of breeding good Highland Cattle. I guess everything good comes at a price and going up to Oban to chew the fat and meet up with people that you seldom see is good for the profile of your fold and good for you. You learn so much each time.

Annie



More chat at dinner L to R Unknown guest, Liz McCombe, Geoff Spawton, Becky Russell, Huw Rowlands, Mike McCombe, unknown guest

## The World According to Highland Cattle

This year has seen a record number of new members and so it was decided to do a day of exchanging experience and getting to know each other. It worked a treat!

The venue, Caer Cadwgan, was lovely and everyone was able to begin chatting over coffee as soon as they arrived.



Scrutinised by a cow

The day had been devised to give an informal view of the business of choosing, caring for and selling highlanders and it seems to have given uniform satisfaction. The morning was taken up with a trip by minibus round the May Fold to view some different grazing environments and a variety of cattle.

Most of the May cattle graze fields and sites on an 8 mile round trip, apart from the home farms. The minibus was an excellent idea because people were able to go on



Lining up to meet each other

chatting as they travelled round the various sites. It made for a very comfortable and congenial morning.

After a jolly good lunch everyone settled down to snooze through a presentation by Yours truly on the "World According to Highland Cattle". It was an opportunity to digest lunch and what they had all seen in the morning.

As usual, there were groups of people chatting well after the designated departure time. Once we get on to our pet subject, it is difficult to get us to stop talking!

Here is a sample of some of the comments we collected about the day and some suggestions about what kind of events were wanted.

- *Enjoyed very much, everybody v. friendly and helpful. Course on halter training would be helpful*
- *Enjoyable day looked after well. I would like to learn a bit more about handling etc – like the Breken show*
- *Enjoyed the day would like to learn handling and well being of cattle and other related topics such as feeding etc. Thanks for looking after us.*
- *Lovely intro for our first visit. Courses: anything for first beginners – handling, welfare and how not to jump fences!*
- *Would like to do a handling session and would be happy to hold a session at Cwmcwrwyth. Also a session on nutrition and breed lines. Thanks for a lovely day.*
- *Lovely day, would like a handling thing like the Breken Show idea. Very interesting knowledgeable day.*

And that's why this year is focusing on handling events!

For Dates of events and shows see page 4



Fiona Park meets Corrie 1<sup>st</sup> of The May

Photos courtesy of Mo Morgan and Becky Russell



**Do you want to sell your Cattle?  
Do you want your Fold to have a  
higher profile?  
Read on!**

Last year the Highland Cattle Society paid for a marquee at the Royal Welsh Show in July and Hazel, the Secretary, came to Builth with Annette to “woman” it. The aim was to publicise the breed and especially HCCW. Members of HCCW helped during the four days and a good time was had by all. This year, to raise money to help with the costs, **you** can raise your fold profile by buying advertising space in the tent.

<b>£20</b>	Name and Fold name on the list of sponsors
<b>£30</b>	Design your own box advert (1 per A5 sheet or half an A 4: we will laminate)
<b>£50</b>	Design an A4 advertisement of your own, which we will laminate, or submit a portfolio for display
<b>£100</b>	Free entry for two adults, a place on the helping team, exposure to the public AND the opportunity to display your A4 portfolio

We hope to see photos, captions, beasts for sale. Highlanders are always popular and last year a lot of interest was generated, with endless questions about their hardiness, economy, ease of handling and individual character.

Please send your request/copy with a cheque payable to HCCW to The Secretary, Mo Morgan, Wenallt, Llandeusan, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire, SA19 9TP by March 2009.

**Annual Christmas Dinner and AGM**

It looks like the Annual Christmas Dinner and AGM at the Stockman’s has met with universal approval. The welcome is warm, they decorate the room so beautifully and are unfailingly obliging. Debbie and her team are to be congratulated.

This year we had a record turnout for the AGM. Liz McCombe took over the Chair and steered the difficult business of constitution change with great skill. HCCW has been in need of a proper shake up for a very long time and Liz was the one to do it!

The beef for dinner was Great House Highland Beef and very delicious it was too. Debbie cooks it in two pieces, once well done and the other rare so that everyone gets what they want. It was served with all the trimmings and much enjoyed as you can see from the pictures.

There were one or two good byes and “Thank you’s”. Ken and Brenda Roberts dined with the Club as a special “thank you” for all the work they did for the Club including Brenda’s work with the membership lists and their inspired idea for the Breken Show. I think it will go down in Club lore; people want more of the same. A very difficult act to follow!

It was then the turn of “yours truly”. It’s easy to report the successes and triumphs of other people. It’s very difficult to report ones’ own doings, especially if it is something good. But I’ve got to bite the bullet on this one.

At the end of dinner Geoff stood up for to address the assembled company, who by this time were pretty mellow! Compliments were made and what seemed to me to be a rather hurried allusion to the year ahead. Then there was some business from the kitchens and a large package was brought out. It was for me – a cow. As you can see not the usual run of the mill cow but a wonderful metal cow to go in the garden! A “thank you” from HCCW.



As you can see I was gob smacked. In fact I shall never trust Geoff again! He did it all without me knowing.

I want to thank everyone for this unexpected and fabulous gift and the card that went with that a very clever Liz McCombe managed to circulate for signatures without my knowing. Also to the

always efficient Ken and Brenda Roberts who packed it and smuggled it onto the building – again without me knowing.! I tell you, if there was a plot to assassinate me, I’d never twig!!!!

After that we got on with the business of socialising.



## Dates for your Diary

The following is a list of shows I know about, mostly in Wales, that I thought members might be interested in attending, with or without their beasts. To find out more about showing your animals, come to the training event on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, at Great House Fold. Showing is great fun, you meet all kinds of interesting people, and I can guarantee that Highlanders have more admirers than any other cattle in the lines! Start your show career this year and help publicise the breed. Check early for stock schedule entry dates, though, they are easily missed!

North Somerset Show	4 <sup>th</sup> May
Smallholders Show	16 <sup>th</sup> + 17 <sup>th</sup> May
Carmarthen County Show	21 <sup>st</sup> June
Royal Highland Show	25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June *
Royal Show, Stoneleigh	7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July *
Royal Welsh	20 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> July *
Lampeter Show	7 <sup>th</sup> August? *
Chepstow Show	8 <sup>th</sup> August?
Anglesey Show	11 <sup>th</sup> + 12 <sup>th</sup> August
Midsomerset Show	16 <sup>th</sup> August
Pembrokeshire Show	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> August
Monmouth Show	27 <sup>th</sup> August
Usk Show	12 <sup>th</sup> September
Newbury Show	19 <sup>th</sup> + 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Aberystwyth	

Show links to check:

### Anglesey Show

<http://www.angleseyshow.org.uk>

### Cardigan County Agricultural Show

<http://www.cardigancountyshow.co.uk>

### Cerrig Show

<http://www.cerrigshow.co.uk>

### Denbigh and Flint Show

<http://www.denbighandflintshow.com>

### Llanilar Show

<http://www.llanilarshow.co.uk>

### Three Counties Show

<http://www.threecounties.co.uk/threecounties> \*

### West Mid Show

<http://www.westmidshow.co.uk>

### Cotswold Show

<http://www.cotswoldshow.co.uk>

This isn't a comprehensive list, but it might start you thinking about the possibilities.

### \* Shows that have classes for highland cattle

#### EVENTS AND FOLD VISITS

**Handling Event** Great House Farm, Chepstow March 29th

**Fold visit** Howard Dare Bryn Hebog April 26th

**Novice Show** venue TBA April 30th or May 5th

**Fold Visit** Celyn Fold TBA



*Oban photographs*




*Meeting of Highlanders who like people and people who like Highlanders*





Christmas Dinner L to R Paul Carson, Brenda Roberts, Ken Roberts, Dafydd Morgans, Annie May

L to R annie May, Mo Morgan, Charles Morgan, Howard Dare, Wendy and Cliff. 



More Christmas dinner pictures!



Oban - at the Waterfront Restaurant, L to R Mike McCombe, Angela Handley, Duncan Handley, Becky Russell, Huw Rowlands, Annie May, Liz mcCombe

## **Classified Ads**

Next copy date  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009  
Jpegs 300X300px max  
Files 400mb max please

The picture below shows three calves (two heifers and a bull calf), which we have had this year (2008).

As you can see, they are yellow/white, red and black. They were born from red cows and sired by the same white bull.

We know that the sire has black three generations back and that the dam of the black bull calf has a black nuzzle. We have kept the black bull calf entire (born 08/08), so will be fascinated to see what colour progeny he produces.

He is for sale.

Anyone interested, please ring Paul or Marie on 01685 881209



### **5 years old Highland Heifers for Sale**

**Neath South Wales**

**Telephone number 07860720350**

**Ivor Williams DP 120 12'X6' cattle and sheep trailer. Internal wooden sheep decks, 2 internal dividing gates for cattle. All in first class working order. Good tyres, including spare. Brakes and lights all working. Well looked after and regularly maintained.**

**Telephone 01570 423 080**

**The May Fold**  
**20 years experience breeding**  
**show winners**  
**After sale advice and support**

**tough, resourceful and very well mannered**

An Uiseag 3<sup>rd</sup> of Craigowmill 8 year old Cow with very stout black bull calf (lurking behind the rushes!) at foot. Consistently produces quality offspring. From Leachy bloodlines which are our favourites. You can't



them all!



keep

Various weaned

calves

**Organic**  
**First health PCHS test clear**  
**Contact: Geoff Spawton**  
**01570 423 080**  
 Email: [geoff@themay.co.uk](mailto:geoff@themay.co.uk)  
 Visit  
[www.themay.co.uk](http://www.themay.co.uk)

**Committee Address Book**

**Howard Dare**

Bryn Hebog  
 Brechfa  
 Carmarthen  
 Telephone 01267 202 291  
 Email: [howard.dare@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:howard.dare@tiscali.co.uk)



**Annie May** (Newsletter)  
**Geoff Spawton** (Show Co-ordinator)

Gilfachwen  
 Cellan  
 Lampeter  
 SA48 8HL  
 Telephone: 01570 423080  
 Email: [info@themayorganicfarms.co.uk](mailto:info@themayorganicfarms.co.uk)



**Judith Holland** (Treasurer)

Mile End Farm  
 Trevaughan  
 Carmarthen  
 SA31 3QL

**Liz McCombe** Chair)

Great House Farm  
 Earlswood  
 Chepstow  
 NP16 6AT  
 01291 652957



Email:  
[lizmccombe@btinternet.com](mailto:lizmccombe@btinternet.com)

**A chance to advertise  
 at Smallholders and  
 Garden Festival**

**If anyone would like to place an  
 Advert on the board at the  
 Smallholders please send your copy  
 before May 10<sup>th</sup> 2008  
 to [info@themayorganicfarms.co.uk](mailto:info@themayorganicfarms.co.uk)**

**HELP!**

Calling for helpers on the Stand  
 Free entry for a limited number  
 Not too arduous and a chance to  
 meet the public and talk about  
 Highland Cattle and recruit for the  
 Club  
 Contact  
 Liz McCombe  
[lizmccombe@btinternet.com](mailto:lizmccombe@btinternet.com)  
 or ring: 01291 652957

**Dai Ormond**  
 Waterwynch  
 Red Roses  
 Carms



**Mo Morgan** (Club  
 Secretary)  
**Charles Morgan** (Vice  
 Chair)  
 Wenallt  
 Llanddeusant  
 Llangadog  
 Carmarthenshire  
 SA19 9TP  
 01550 740206  
[mo@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mo@phonecoop.coop)  
 p