



Dolly Breaks the Record



On December 4th last year Cobthorn Dolly broke the record for the longest living Cobthorn Dexter. The record was previously held by Cobthorn Candytuft at 23 years and 200 days, which is now well behind Dolly as she approaches her 24th birthday. The old dear is pretty well for her age, but starting to look a bit aged now. She has outwintered with the rest of the herd, apart from a couple of bitterly cold, miserable days when I thought she didn't

look herself and had her in for a bit of warmth and extra feed.

Dolly is very much the matriarch at Cobthorn, all the others respecting her leading authority and giving way to her when a bale of hay is put out for them. She is actually the matriarch of the herd with her being either the Mother, Grandmother or Great Grandmother of every other Dexter here.

When Dolly was a young heifer, I well remember the late Beryl Rutherford picking her out of the large number we had here at the time as the one she liked the best. I am sure that Beryl would have very much enjoyed the fact that Dolly has reached this great age and has contributed so much to the ongoing generations of Cobthorn Dexters. The picture of her here was taken on her 20th birthday

Dolly has been a wonderful cow, with the most lovely steady temperament. She is the daughter of Cobthorn Cowslip, who had our highest ever heifer lactation when we were milk recording. Dolly's sire was Harron Rocket, so she is also 100% original Dexter bloodlines, as is her son Cobthorn Conkson, who was by Vycanny Glencally Reiver. Dolly's extremely quiet and easy going nature has passed to her son and to her Grandson, Honey Hall Anatoly whose daughters are very quiet and friendly as well. That is such a good quality to have established in a herd. Another Great Granddaughter, Cobthorn Chloe, has been born this very day that I am writing the tribute to old Dolly.

A very special cow, Dolly has been awarded an honourable retirement with her many family members at Cobthorn. If she makes it to her 24th birthday, which looks very likely, I dare say we shall raise a glass to the old dear who has been so much part of my life for almost quarter of a century

Andrew Sheppy

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