

LANDOWNING INITIATIVES

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DIVERSIFICATION NEWS

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Time stands still.

Yes Big Ben has stopped for the first time for many years, because, they cannot carry out the repairs they expect to carry out, because the maintenance they have done so successfully for so many years, without it stopping, has come up against the new restrictions and limitations of the rules of Health and Safety which has got into everyone's hair like sand from the beach.

Health & Safety now crops up in those areas you least expect and at times it can do considerable damage. It is like a rotting piece of wood or worms in a beautiful oak table like the one in any kitchen which has the march of the "evil weevil". At first one does not notice it and then one day you see dust coming out of small holes and realise that your beautiful table is full of holes.

Health and Safety similarly wears down organisations or well established annual events in a similar way until there is a tremendous crack and you realise the weevil has won!- the organisation can't operate and because of Health & Safety the event is cancelled - the kids can no longer have the run of the Mill.

Health and Safety changes everything and life isn't fun anymore and everyone has to come to account for what they have to do.

The organizers are now so worried about what they can or cannot do that meetings are held, papers are written on and on until the machinery grinds on in the organisation slowly coming to a halt. So that destroys the fun in the organisation from what it was and it becomes a shadow of its earlier self, due to all the rules and regulations that have crept in - like the weevil's - there is a great crack and the organisation is finished.

Such is Health and Safety, We live by it today How sad:

The Red Admiral:



The Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, a well-known colorful butterfly, and has recently been seen in clouds in East Devon. Never before has a cloud of over 40 been seen at Moorhayne Farm. It has gathered here because of the care of the owners in looking after the organic soil to the extent that there are no poisonous substances or sprays and with natural grazing but also areas of stinging nettles and other plants of a similar nature to encourage them to breed.

The Butterfly is found in temperate Europe, Asia and North America. The red admiral has a 45–50 mm (1.8–2.0 in) wingspan. The species is resident only in warmer areas, but migrates north in spring, and sometimes again in autumn.

This medium-sized butterfly is identified by its striking dark brown, red, and black wing pattern. More specifically, the dark wings possess orange bands that cross on the outer edge of the hindwings; white spots on

the dorsal forewings near the front; that the margin reddish bars on dorsal surface of all four wings. The caterpillar feeds on nettles, and the adult drinks from flowering plants like the *Buddleia* and overripe fruit and there are a huge amount of fallen cider apples this year.

In northern Europe, it is one of the last butterflies to be seen before winter sets in, often feeding on the flowers of ivy on sunny days. The red admiral is also known to hibernate, re-emerging individuals showing prominently darker coloring than first-brood subjects. The butterfly also flies on sunny winter days, especially in southern Europe.

In North America, the red admiral generally has two broods from March through to October. Most of North America must be recolonized, each spring by southern migrants, but this species over-winters in south Texas.

The red admiral is the butterfly featured by Vladimir Nabokov, an amateur lepidopterist, in his novel *Pale Fire*.

INTRODUCTION TO TURBOT CULTIVATION -



The potential for farming of Atlantic turbot has been under investigation since the early 1970's, with researchers in Lowestoft reporting on the first successful attempts to rear larval turbot in captivity in 1973.

Significant research and development continued in the UK and France in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and has been followed by more recent work on turbot cultivation in Spain, Holland and to a lesser extent Chile.

The development of the species has enjoyed a level of state funding in some of these countries which is only surpassed by the effort on halibut, and which reflects the way

success of salmon farming has placed aquaculture into the strategic thinking of governments. With pressure on salmon prices, and therefore threats to jobs and coastal economies, although many disagree with Loch farming governments have shared with industry the drive to diversify into new species.

In the event, turbot cultivation has actually increasingly focused on regions of Europe which are *not* particularly strong salmon growing areas.

Luckily the on growing industry was able to develop while hatchery problems were being researched, as they were able to obtain juvenile turbot from the wild. These were mainly taken - under a special licence from MAFF - from sandy beaches around the coast of the UK in late summer - when the newly metamorphosed "O" group wild turbot came into the shore to feed. Capture was achieved by way of adapted sand-eel seine netting.

Hatcheries became effective suppliers of juvenile turbot by the mid-late 1980's, and wild juvenile collection ceased at that time.

Fish in production on farmland.

When farming the choice of the farmer is to farm an item he can see and touch and to grow something in water is one he cannot touch because water is not like straw and is alien to him.. This is the Achilles heel to farming aquaculture on land and perhaps why it has not developed. The choice of the farmer is to use materials he likes and can touch and water has never been chosen.

A young farmer as opposed to an older one might find that he is keen to have a go at starting a new idea on the farm like an aquaculture unit. As an apprentice he may be keen to develop work of this kind on the farm.

He should be encouraged, because it might be, that he might find himself at the threshold of a new National Food chain business with an additional profit area for the farm, and something which might create a new way to feed the populations of the future.

Landfish Ltd, a newly formed Company working out of East Devon is keenly looking at the market of Turbot cultivation and is well poised to do so developing opportunities for the growing of fish of all kinds on the South Coast and, in conjunction with the farming industry, on land. Investors are welcome.

Caged animals or fish, whether they are being brought up in a restricted environment or in water, need similar treatment, They all have similar needs like oxygen medication and food and therefore go well together.

In an earlier article on fish production it is important to be aware of the occasional report coming out of the BBC on **phalegic fishing** in the Atlantic and other seas, Aquaculture is the forerunner both for salt and fresh water fish produced on land to combat this fishing. Government organisations are not even going to considering what to do about this subject and not assisting in any way to assist with Farm Subsidies for fish. Why should a farmer of stock or land have an IACS subsidy as whereas there is NO subsidy for fish.

Our wild life under threat

In the UK we have some of the finest wild life in the world and we are very proud of it, but concern is growing and that is why, in the Times Newspaper in the autumn last year there was a large Article which declared that 123 species were at serious risk. and hundreds more at risk. This was in the State of Nature report 2016 being drawn up by more than 50 of the UK's conservation groups.

It went on to say that the farmer should not be blamed, the real problem is the industrialisation of Agriculture driven by subsidies. Mr Nixon a reporter of the times said that there is still a need for subsidies but under **Brexit** is a moment when we can take stock and subsidies can be directed to wider public benefit including food production but also going towards protecting wild life and the environment.

To improve our birds Landowning Initiatives has suggested, as a farm diversification the growing birds, starting with sparrows in cages. This might be encouraged or for that matter any declining species could be

encouraged in a similar way. .Perhaps this idea might take on again after Lords Cricket ground encouraged the sparrows on that hallowed turf which they used to do but now there is not one to be seen anywhere. Perhaps **Health and Safety** have cleared them off because one was killed by a cricket ball and ended up in the museum!

IACS Payments the Future?

For three years farming subsidy payments have been withdrawn from small farmers. How wrong they were to think like that because the farmer who needs the subsidy more than anyone is the smaller farmer not the big one. Around the world different views are held on Subsidies and now we are nearly free of Europe we will have to decide which way we will go into the future. What country will we be like or will we introduce our own version of the Subsidy? Some of the versions we might choose are as follows:

New Zealand:

Mainly has a history of no support except for subsidies on Research and Biosecurity New Zealand does what perhaps the UK should do and that is to target specific areas like animal welfare or agri innovation. Prices are aligned to world prices

Brazil:

Loans and Minimum prices are there for steady prices and the measures form the cornerstone of support, market price controls and credit facilities and subsidised crop insurance.

Norway:

Agricultural support accounts for 60% of farm revenues the worlds most protected being three times higher than the OECD average. Import tariffs up to 400%

Switzerland

Farmers are protected by a system of import tariffs and quotas covering a range of products Export subsidies were abolished on agricultural commodities in 2010. Expenditure on production and marketing supports mainly dairy farming who receive payments for cows fed on hay and not silage which is processed into artisan cheese areas payments for oilseeds protein crops or sugar beet.

The United States

Support has gone down from 21% of gross farm revenue in the late 1980's to just 10.7% today. A price loss payment can be claimed for crops when prices fall. Subsidised crop insurance on loss payments yield or farm revenue. Direct loans for purchasing farmlands

Australia.

Support for agriculture is just 1.3% of farm revenues. No market price support but tax concessions and financial incentives no permanent farm subsidies. Loan schemes and Income support are available against hardship.

How will the UK create its own system??

It will come out in the wash as to what we do in the UK The farming lobby is very strong so much will continue as before however in the view of Landowning Initiatives if some support was taken off the top and more provided for very much smaller schemes to do with Countryside overall then everyone would benefit to **EXIT under Brexit**

ONE YEAR ON IN OR OUT?

"Faint heart never won fair lady"

None of us really know, even now, what we were to encounter along the Brexit way. What those who want no change cannot stand is the fact that they lost. They lost a Democratic vote on the future of our Country which thanks to the British people will get back Government in the UK. Those who voted against coming out have stood out as not being loyal to our Country Great Britain, to our Queen, as our Queen, and to our Judiciary and Parliament, under which our people are governed.

It is our Parliament which has made laws since Magna Carta. Common Law has devolved through the people and Statute Law through our Parliament, which has powers to make laws and exercise them for us and not for any other countries government administration.

What people tend to fail to understand is that the Common Market, the trading and the Tariff's imposed (if they are) and the rules and the laws surrounding The European

Common Market are similar as when we enter into a trading relationship with any other Country outside the Common market.

They have their rules as much as we have ours and we are free to choose if we use them or not. it is the judgement of our Government as to whether it imposes a tariff in a trade war but it has nothing to do with our Sovereignty, our Parliament and our laws of England. It is here that so many people get so muddled.

Farm Diversification on our hard pressed wildlife species, and the farm subsidies.

The Game Conservancy have always been the first to recommend the conservation of field boundaries for wild life on farmers' fields especially those that are due to be ploughed.

They take notice to preserve the wild life and this action is part of recognised Agricultural payments, this is indorsed by an article written in the Shooting Times on the 7th June 2017 when Michael Ford wrote an Article called "Big Numbers & Bare Earth"

Anxiety was expressed regarding the creation of a Bare Earth policy concerning wildlife other than Game birds. As Countrymen we should beware of the strict controls that our Gamekeepers of today are likely to use to keep our shoots free of vermin especially with the new heat seeking telescopic rifle sight which is now available.

We need our vermin controlled but we do not want a bare earth policy so that nothing moves, the field foundries help to alleviate this. We need our game birds wilder and not kept like chickens in a coop to be picked off by guns as easy prey. Are we shooting at high birds or are we low guns?? Think on it!!

As King George VI said:

"The wild life of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after."

**We can help at Landowning Initiatives give us a call. You might be surprised! at the answers you get. Ring us on:
01 404 861284.**