



# *Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter*

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## **Council Officers**

Chairman – Mr. Richard Mumford    Vice-Chairman – Mr. Thomas Jackson  
Secretary - Mrs. Lucinda Foster    Treasurer- Mrs. Lynne Parkes

## **Council Members**

Mrs. M. Pursch, Mrs. C. Cunningham, The Hon. Mrs. A. Reid, Mr. R Leach,  
Mr. D. Cross, Mr. S. Parkes, Ms. D. Stanhope

## **Editors**

John Flanders, The Hon. Mrs. Angela Reid



*Spring at Cwmcwrth Farm (Towy Flock)*

## **EDITORIAL**

**John Flanders**

This edition of the Newsletter contains a number of reminders of events that Council have organised and members are encouraged to support them. Council, in preparing a programme for the year, endeavours to provide subjects that meet the interests of all members, but if there is no support the question has to be asked whether there is any point in having these events.

On a lighter note, I am delighted that Rob and Fiona Park have written about their flock of Cotswolds; it is always good to have a few more breeders in Wales. They also produce bacon and pork from the Oxford Sandy and Black rare breed pigs and I can vouch how tasty it is (mail order is available I understand).

Sadly, despite my request in the last Newsletter, no one else has come forward to join Judy and me in The View From Here; similarly having tried to have a Young Handlers Section no contributions have been forthcoming.

This year Davina Stanhope, Richard Mumford and Robin Leach are standing down from Council and I am grateful for the work that they have all put in on behalf of the Society.

## **THE VIEW FROM HERE**

**West Wales**

**John Flanders**

The fine Spring weather, and for us plenty of grass due to the wet Winter, meant that the ewes had a good crop of grass at turn out; however, the cold spell in mid-April slowed down grass growth with the result that the ewes were struggling for a short while to maintain body condition. It is well known that the terrain impacts upon the level of grass growth and this was clearly displayed in the Spring when the higher ground had better growth, whilst the lower land near the valley bottom was slow to get started.

Lambing went very well this year and we are really pleased with the lambs that have been born. At this stage some of them look exceptionally good, but as we all

know they have a habit of changing, whilst the “ugly ducklings” turn out to be real crackers or should that be quackers!!

The lambs from the tup that covered our neighbour’s Lleyn ewe have a predominance of Cotswold in them. For some strange reason our neighbours do not want to borrow any of our tups next tuppington season. I really cannot imagine why!

The farm is registered under the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Beef and Lamb Scheme with inspections taking place every 18 months or thereabouts. We were inspected for the fourth time and, as on previous occasions, passed with no non-compliances. It is my understanding that there is a move to reduce red tape – do not believe it. The number of questions asked has increased by at least 30%.

We entered the Rare Breed Longwool Section at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society’s Spring Festival and did quite well by winning the Shearling Ram Class and Best in Section. Having been there before, as visitors, it did not seem quite as busy as previously, but nevertheless it is always a good show.

After a good few weeks of wet weather the sun has started to emerge and the ground is drying adequately for spreading fertiliser. I suppose the next job will be shearing followed by haymaking.

## **Gloucestershire**

**Judy Wilkie**

Another lambing completed and a very wet one. With only nine ewes now, shelter is not a problem any more and they are all able to stand in the barn when it rains during lambing. We are lucky to be at 600 ft fairly and dry underfoot after a few days, but in Sodbury Vale and further towards the Severn, it has been a much more difficult and worrying time. Now out in the paddocks the lambs rush into the pig hut creep feeder every time it rains and the ewes stand outside under the hedges until it stops when the lambs rejoin them.

Several friends with commercial flocks have had losses due to the constant rain causing the lambs becoming chilled.

This year I decided to revaccinate against the Clostridial diseases and the ewes had the two injections and were therefore fully protected before lambing. Next year they will need only a single booster before lambing. I have not used it for many years but

last year lost a ewe and was not sure why she died so felt it was time to remove another variable.

The ewes all lambed unaided as is usually the case and had thirteen lambs. Not the highest lambing percentage but all good sized lambs. Then my eight year old granddaughter's bottle reared ewe sat on her nice ewe lamb when it was four days old. After a few tears Lily announced "that's farming" so I reminded her not to name it until it was at least a week old. It is a sad fact that very often the biggest or best lamb will be lost and the weedy runt who will never be much good will hang on until eventually it is big enough to go.

The grass is now growing very fast and the next thing to watch for is fly strike. I shall spray the lambs and shear the ewes as soon as practical and take my wool sack to my nearest neighbour when I finish doing them. At least with hand shearing a small number it is possible to get on with it and not wait for a shearer. The shearers always go to the farms in the valley first as it is warmer than up here. The wool rises and is easier to shear and the flies are more of a problem off the escarpment.

Although the local rook and jackdaw population is much reduced this year I am still filling the creep trough in the evening to reduce the birds raiding the feed as soon as it is topped up.

## **TOWY FLOCK**

### **Rob and Fiona Park**

Some people call it "living the dream" and I suppose in reality dreams are not always rosy and perfect. Rob called it retirement but he's worked harder in the last few years (at least physically) than he's ever worked in his life. I would call it a change!

We used to have day jobs which involved sitting in an office for lots of hours and feeling stressed. Now we work lots of hours mainly outside and feel stressed. What's changed? Everything!

Having kept a few rare breed Oxford Sandy and Black pigs for a number of years on about 3 acres, 5 years ago after a lot of hunting Rob fell in love with a run down traditional Welsh farm in West Wales with about 50 acres and 2 holiday cottages.

Selling our business in Gloucestershire we set about building our farm. To help generate an income we renovated the holiday cottages and converted the remaining barn in the house courtyard into another one. Holidaymakers started to visit and enjoy the local attractions of gardens, castles, beautiful countryside and quiet beaches. Sadly we had not fully appreciated the farm would immediately eat up any income we made and much more!

Rob decided early on the animals would be rare breeds and as I had always loved Highland Cattle we bought 2 heifers from the local show winning herd. Thinking after a while we needed to build a fold we returned and bought 2 more and sent 2 to visit the bull. Having joined the HCCW (Welsh equivalent of EBLEX) we began to visit more agricultural shows to see our friends show their beasts and to identify the next rare breed purchase for Cwmcwrth Farm.

Searching the RBST website and the show pens we chose Cotswold sheep and Golden Guernsey goats, I promise you it was not just a beauty parade. We quickly understood why Golden Guernsey goats are rare; nobody wanted to sell any stock. We had better luck with the Cotswold Sheep Society members.

This sounds as if we were feeding an addiction buying more and more animals but if I explain to you that Wales' farming heritage unlike England was lots of small family farms of about 50-100 acres. Each farm would have kept a few pigs, sheep, cattle, chickens and grown their own crops, true self-sufficiency for the family and neighbours. Having researched the farm's residents through the census returns and read a little local rural history in our own way we are trying to preserve the heritage of Cwmcwrth Farm. Admittedly we are not sticking to Welsh native breeds but we have always been careful to choose animals which are suitable for our land and reasonably easy to birth as we are not experts. Maybe the Cotswolds do not entirely fit this brief as Wales can be quite wet at times and claggy mud does not really sit well with a Rastafarian hair style, but the holidaymakers love them!

Having been told for many years sheep are always looking for an excuse to lie down and die we decided this time not to go for the award winning animals in the first instance. Wanting to start with a small pedigree flock we were pleased to see a member selling theirs and decided to jump in with both feet. Being novice shepherds we set about learning to dag, drench, hoof trim and fit a ram harness. The

latter we are still struggling with! The first year Rob chose the ram he felt looked the best (it's a man thing) and after running with the ewes for a few weeks we had lots of green spotted Cotswolds. It was a bit of a shock when we took them to be scanned at the local farm to find we were expecting 18 lambs from 12 ewes including a triplet.

While at Hay on Wye buying a Highland Bull we were talked through lambing by an expert and offered telephone support but I went home thinking childbirth lessons never prepare you for childbirth! So seeking more information I contacted John Flanders (Hendra Veau flock) just up the road (as they say in Wales!) and asked if he would be kind enough to allow us to visit and give us some tips on Cotswolds. Sensibly we had planned lambing late so we could call on the local farmer after his main lambing if we had problems and also to be able to see others lambing. John and Jan were very welcoming and John was very informative; if I remember correctly he told us all the things that could go wrong!! We were able to see his ewes and lambs although none were kind enough to oblige with lambing while we were there. We went home with a new confidence and 2 new friends in John and Jan.

As usual things were a rush and the sheep shed was not completely finished by the time we needed to bring the ewes in for lambing and I am ashamed to say it is not finished now a year or so later...maybe this summer. The weather was kind, as it was again this year. Sadly we lost the first 2 sets of twins born as we did not realise the mothers were failing to supply milk until our builder showed us how to check (everyone's a sheep expert in Wales). Our first lambing results included a prolapsed ewe, 2 ewes identified for the knacker man and 12 live lambs including a triplet lamb we fed on a shepherdess and who became the star of the show. John Flanders confirmed we had no award-winning specimens but by selling our 2 old rams and 2 milkless ewes we were able to invest in 5 new ewes from John's flock to improve our pedigree. 3 Lambs were kept back, Daisy and 2 for hogget. The others were sold to the trader for a fair price.

For lambing in 2012 we chose to use 2 young rams, the problem here being the harnesses came loose and resulted in several of the ewes being covered but the ram not identified. On scanning we were pleased to hear there were no triplets but from 14 ewes we were expecting 21 lambs. I think the farmer must have told us the dates in Welsh because on checking the sheep one morning I found 2 single lambs had been born in the field. Thank goodness March was so mild. With all the ewes safely

in the shed most decided to give birth in advance of our Easter schedule. The holidaymakers on site watched in amazement and the children over the Easter holidays loved the lambs nearly as much as the piglets. Lambing required intervention in only a couple of twin cases and one difficult birth was assisted by the local farmer. In the last 2 years we have learnt so much and we are very proud to have a 100% success rate this year. So many farmers lost lambs to foxes that we kept ours in for a few weeks and thankfully it paid off. We had 2 late lambs, the last one being born this week just in time for half term visitors! Hopefully the lambs will fetch a good price again this year, which will pay for the feed for the ewes. We will continue to improve the flock by culling older ewes when the price is high, and buying in pedigree stock until we are able to breed our own. The market for pedigree Cotswolds is not buoyant in West Wales unsurprisingly but we are showcasing the breed to a wide selection of holidaymakers from the UK and Europe and maintaining a gene pool away from the traditional geographical breeding area should disaster strike.



*Young holidaymakers with Daisy*

Our main animal focus continues to be the OSB pig and Rob now has 11 of the remaining 13 female bloodlines and 2 of the 4 male bloodlines as well some fine Nant Du bred pedigree stock. As with the Cotswolds conformation is the key and from a litter of 12 we may have 1 or 2 to register, the advantage with OSBs is their amazing taste. Our sausages have been described as the “best ever tasted “ and pork “as it used to taste”. Through supplying top quality local restaurants and shops and by selling direct from the farm and also through food festivals, we are able to support our heritage breeds - but it isn't easy, as any small supplier would tell you.

In November 2011 much to our surprise we won the Carmarthenshire Tourist Association Gold Award for Self Catering Accommodation awarded not only for our lovely cottages, but for the sense of place and farming activities offered to our visitors. Rare breeds take centre stage at our farm and visitors get up close and personal helping farmer Rob to feed the animals in the morning. They collect eggs for their breakfast and eat sausages and bacon from the farm not Tesco's. Their beds have beautifully woven Cotswold blankets for those cooler Welsh evenings and Daisy is always there to welcome them to the sheep field and pose for a photo. We are developing more farming orientated holidays, smallholder experiences and pork curing activities, to help support this enterprise. In the modern world we have to keep evolving even if we want to hang onto the past and protect these native breeds!

For more information about the farm please see our website [www.cwmcrwthfarmcottages.co.uk](http://www.cwmcrwthfarmcottages.co.uk) or follow the farm activities on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CwmcrwthFarmHolidayCottages>

## **COTSWOLD CROSSES**

**John Flanders**

Most members are probably aware Cotswold rams were used as crossing sires for the Oxford Down and the Oldenburg.

However, whilst thumbing through a German book entitled “A Colour Atlas of Livestock Breeds” by HH Sambras, mention is made of the Valais Black- Nosed and the Rhon both of which used Cotswold in their breeding. Comments in the book on the breed history for these is reproduced below

**The Valais Black-Nosed:** “Goes back essentially to the Visper (valley) sheep,

which was similar in appearance and was also horned. Although the term “black-nosed breed” was first used In 1844, the breed had existed since at least the fifteenth century. In about 1877 Cotswold rams from England and Germany were introduced to western Switzerland, and were apparently crossed with the ancestors of the Black-Nosed. There may have been occasional crossings with Bergamasks.”

**Rhon:** “First mentioned by name in the literature in 1844, but it is certain that this breed existed considerably earlier. According to the oldest drawing (1873), it already corresponded to the modern type. During the course of time, the English Cotswold and Merino were crossed with it. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, when there were several hundred thousand animals, numbers have fallen continuously, and reached a low point of only 300 registered flock book animals in the former Federal republic at the end of the 1950’s. A definite increase started at the beginning of the 1960’s. The population is currently about 1,000 animals”.

If anyone knows of any other crosses please let me know.

## **BREEDING**

### **Richard Broad of RBST**

During my time with the RBST, the purity and breeding of our rare breeds is a major topic of discussion. Looking back over the 39 years of the Trust we have seen most if not all of our breeds undergo change and more often than not grading up of animals from other breeds.

The Combined Flock Book (CFB) has been the mother flock book for many of the breeds including the Cotswold in the early years. Looking back to the 1970’s we can see animals, which first entered the Flock Book by inspection and flock records only. We then moved to grading up with breeds including the Cotswold. It was often done with a similar breed such as the Leicester in the Cotswold breed. In the Castlemilk Moorit some Manx ewes were used, and I suppose the greatest use was with the Norfolk Horn with Swaledales and Suffolks.

If we had our time again (in hindsight we have 20:20 vision!) we would still have needed to grade up some animals in our sheep breeds but we probably would have used different breeds. In the Cotswold for example, perhaps we should have used a Suffolk. In using Leicester, the offspring were very similar to pure Cotswolds but in future generations it would be hard to breed for Cotswold characteristics without unconsciously selecting for Leicester traits. By using a black faced shortwool breed

all the phenotypic characteristics that make a Cotswold could only come from them. Therefore all Suffolk traits could be culled out on the look of the animal only.

Of more importance to our rare breeds are the levels of inbreeding. This is a factor which is causing us more problems. In any population with a limited selection of breeding animals the inbreeding level will rise. In an ideal world all lambs born in 2012 whether they are male and female would all have offspring in the next generation of the breed. Therefore all bloodlines and combinations would be represented in the future. However this is far from practical and we select males in particular to sire the next generation in a ratio of 1:10 or even 1:20 of the male lambs born. One added complication in some breeds is the long lives of the ram; therefore they are used longer in more flocks and are increasing inbreeding in a breed by restricting the number of active males in the breed. Ways the RBST is trying to hold inbreeding levels is to encourage the use of more young males, and to use the rams for shorter times. We understand that this is a problematic, with a good older ram that might be breeding excellent stock. But if his offspring are spread too far in a breed in 10 years time the inbreeding level could have risen to a level, which could have major effects on the breed both good and unfortunately bad as well.

## **PREPARATIONS FOR TUPPING**

**Angela Reid**

It seems hard when still recovering from lambing to think about preparing for tupping in the autumn, but like most things with sheep, forward planning is essential.

The most important decision I make each year is when I want to start lambing the following year. Then I count back five months from that day to workout when roughly when I will put my rams in. I try to let my ewes have two months off between weaning and lambing as this gives them time to recover and to put on weight if they need to; according to *Eblex* a ewe's condition score at tupping should be 3.5 (0 being too thin, and 5 being too fat). Incidentally Cotswolds are not usually put to a ram as lambs, but wait until the following year and go to the ram as shearlings.

A couple of weeks after the current crop of lambs are weaned at 12 to 16 weeks old, I carry out some basic checks on my ewes. I begin by checking their udders for signs of mastitis (though at this stage some lumpiness is likely as milk may still be

present), then move onto the mouth looking for worn down, or lost, teeth, or teeth that are not closing nicely on the top plate.

I don't at this time decide to cull a ewe purely because she is in poor condition, as it can be that she has done particularly well for her lambs at additional cost to herself, and needs the full two months off to recover. One reason to cull a ewe may be if she has had a vaginal prolapse during pregnancy as these tend to reoccur, uterine prolapses however, which occur after lambing, generally do not. Further reasons for deciding to cull a ewe might be persistent difficulties with lambing, poor mothering skills, or lack of milk, so I check my lambing notes carefully. Do be aware though that shearling ewes lambing for the first time may fulfil one or more of the above criteria, but will be fine in future. I will then decide which, if any, ewes should definitely be culled, and which I will look to sell to make room for my new crop of shearling ewes. I will reassess all the remaining ewes, particularly their udders, before I put the ram in.

If your ewes have not been vaccinated against *Toxoplasma* (carried by cats) and/or Enzootic abortion, you may want to discuss with your vet whether this is something you should do. If you do decide to vaccinate, then remember it must be done at least a month before introducing your ram. Also discuss with your vet whether you should be giving your sheep any mineral or vitamin supplements.

The next thing to consider is whether you want to 'flush' your ewes in the run up to tugging; this can give you higher lambing percentages. Flushing will involve moving your ewes on to the best possible grazing two to three weeks before putting the rams in, or start supplementing their feed; a rising plane of nutrition will encourage ovulation. If you want your ewes to synchronise their seasons, which will give you a shorter lambing period, try introducing a 'teaser' (a vasectomised ram) into their field a few weeks before bringing in your fertile ram.

Never forget your ram is half your flock! He too needs some pre-tugging attention. I looked to *Eblex* for some expert advice. They make the following recommendations:

- Rams should ideally be purchased several months before the start of the breeding season.
- They should have a body condition score of 3.5 – 4.0. Rams can lose up to 15% of body weight during six weeks of tugging.

- Begin supplementing the ram's diet 10 weeks before tupping - feed up to 1kg/day of a high quality 18-20% protein ration (without added magnesium) to improve condition and semen quality. If possible, continue feeding during tupping.
- Check the testicles - they should move freely within the scrotum, be equal size with no hard lumps and swelling. Large, firm testicles produce 80% more semen a day than medium-sized, soft testicles
- The ram's penis should be extruded and examined for signs of lesions.
- Feet and legs: Check the rams are sound on their feet and check for arthritis in older rams.
- Brisket: Check for lesions that reduce the ram's ability to mate
- General health and age
- Examine teeth (especially incisors and molars)
- Check the fleece for signs of external parasites and treat as necessary.

I would add to this that any treatments for feet, etc. should be done well in advance as the semen cycle is seven weeks – so an illness, or stress, can affect the semen seven weeks after the event.

**Don't forget the four Ts: Teeth, Toes, Tone and Testicles**

Good luck!

## **SCHMALLEMBERG VIRUS**

**John Flanders**

Whilst the impact of Schmallenberg Virus (SBV) has not been as great as originally feared, it was horrible for those affected. The National Sheep Association (NSA) have published the following guidelines in relation to showing and selling sheep.

“For shows and sales NSA recommends that sheep producers consider their situations, evaluate any risks, and take measures to reduce risks where necessary. We would encourage farmers showing sheep in this period when Schmallenberg is evident to:

- Avoid presenting stock in the early stages of pregnancy

- Farmers who have experienced SBV on their farms this year should consider the risks of moving their sheep to central locations and speak to their vets for advice
- Watch out for the availability of serum tests to detect antibodies. This should identify sheep that have come into contact with the virus and could be used as part of the decision making process
- Only present stock showing clear signs of good health. Any sheep appearing unwell should be kept away from other stock. The use of a thermometer to check body temperature in adult sheep is unusual but temperature increase is associated with SBV and thermometers are cheap and easy to use.
- Use products that may help to repel biting insects from sheep. These may include approved dips, sprays, and natural repelling agents such as garlic and citronella. Natural products may be fed or used regularly and farmers may consider spraying areas showing skin several times a day whilst at shows if they feel the risk makes it worthwhile.
- Insect traps used at shows, around pens and buildings could be considered.
- As always, report any unusual signs or suspicions to your vet.”

**ATRESIA ANI  
(IMPERFORATE ANUS)  
John Flanders**

This is a problem, which does not occur that frequently, but can result in the death of the lamb.

At first glance the lambs are born normally, but there is no opening from the rectum. After a few days the abdomen becomes swollen and the lamb strains, but pass no faeces. It is possible for a vet to treat the problem by injecting a local anaesthetic and making a hole where the anus should be, but stand back because the bowels are under pressure!! However, if there is a blockage, it does not necessarily follow that the blockage is at the anus and it could be anywhere in the lower intestine and to resolve the problem would then result in major surgery.

In the event that atresia ani happens more than once from the same ewe consideration should be given to culling it.

		<b>SHOW DATES FOR 2012</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>SHOW</b>	<b>TEL NO</b>	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	<b>JUDGE</b>
<b>June</b>				
15th - 17th	The Three Counties Show	01684 584900	12th April	Alan Lyons
17th	Rare Breeds & Minority Breeds	01684 584900	12th April	Steve Parkes
<b>July</b>				
1st	Cotswold Show, Cirencester Park	01285 652007	15th June	Bob Palmer
4th	NSA Sheep 2012			
21st	Stroud Show	01453 883646	1st July	Richard Mumfo
23rd - 26th	The Royal Welsh	01982 553683	about 5th May	
<b>August</b>				
3rd and 4th	Cirencester Show and Sale	01291 680068	about 1st July	Robert Boodle
19th	Cotswold Farmers, Andoversford	01451 870386	4th August	Thomas Jackso
27th	Berkeley Show	01453 543335	about 10th August	Caroline Cunning
27th	Ilmington Show	01608 682605		
30th	Monmouthshire Show	01291 691160	about 23rd July	
<b>September</b>				
1st	Moreton-in-Marsh Show	01608 651908	13th July	Davina Stanhop
9th	Frampton Show	01452 740698		

# NON COTSWOLD CLASS SHOW RESULTS

## ROYAL WELSH SPRING FESTIVAL – 20<sup>th</sup> May

### Rare Breed Longwool Section

Shearling ram	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr J Flanders
Ewe	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr J Flanders
Shearling ewe	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr J Flanders
Group of three	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr J Flanders
Champion longwool		Mr J Flanders

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW – 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### Rare and Traditional Breeds Class

Senior ram	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Ram lamb	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Veteran ewe	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Senior ewe	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Shearling ewe	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Ewe lamb	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Group of three	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Wool on the hoof	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr S Parkes
Champion longwool		Mr S Parkes
Interbreed champion		Mr S Parkes

Congratulations to Steve Parkes for winning the Interbreed Championship.

## THE COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

**Angela Reid**

Many societies now have a Facebook page because it a great way to communicate with their members. It is a wonderfully inter-active tool allowing the Society to easily remind members of events and to pass on any news, while members are able to comment on items, and also to upload their own news and photos at just the click of the 'POST' button. Now we have a Facebook page too!

Our Facebook page is very easy to find – just click on the 'Follow Us on Facebook'

button on our Home Page. This will take you immediately to the website version of our Facebook page, but will not show you the full version. To get to the full version, you will simply need to click on one of the Cotswold Sheep Society logos and that will take you to our page at Facebook.com.

If you want to see how another Sheep Society with an already active Facebook page uses it, take a look at the Jacob Sheep Society: <http://www.facebook.com/jacobsheepsocietyuk>. Notice that if you want to tell us you 'like' something you have seen or read - you can just click the 'like' button by each item. The more 'likes' we get the better as it means more people are following what we are doing and are interested in the Society.

You will be able to read everything on our page, without having a Facebook account - but if you want to add a comment, news, 'like' something, or upload a photo yourself, you will need to be a member of Facebook.

This is very simple to do, and is completely free. You only have to give them minimal information, such as name and email - you do not have to add a photo of any sort if you don't want to – in fact while some people do add a photo of themselves, others add photos of pets, places or objects instead. All the information you give can remain completely private.

So do give please view our Facebook page - and tell us what you think!

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

**Council Nominations:** Margaret Pursch and Steve Parkes have been re-elected onto Council. Davina Stanhope and Robin Leach have both decided not to put their names forward for re-election onto Council this year because sadly Robin is still unwell and Davina has increased work commitments. Richard Mumford is standing down as Chairman at the AGM but has kindly agreed to stay on Council for one further year. Council will be putting Angela Reid's name forward at the AGM as the incoming Chairman.

**Website:** The website is generally up to date and running well now, but Council are keen to find a member to assist with the regular "updating" of information on the website. This is an important role as we believe the website will in future play an essential part in promoting both the Society and the Breed. Please do contact

Lucinda ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com)) if this is something you are able to help with. There is a now Facebook page attached to the website - there are further details about this elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**The Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2011** are included within this newsletter mailing. Full sets of accounts will be available at the AGM and members can also either download a copy from the CSS website or ask Lucinda for a full set of accounts to be either emailed or posted to them.

**Profit:** Council wishes to thank all members who contributed to the excellent profit of over £1500 that the Society raised in the last financial year. A good deal of this was raised by the 'Back to Back' Wool Challenge held at Villars Barn last May, and also by the extremely successful raffle. Council is very grateful to Lynne Parkes for her hard work in producing another good set of accounts. It is important that we continue to make a profit each year, and in this respect please do let Lucinda know if you have any fundraising ideas ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com)).

**Frank Williams Nomination Form:** The Frank Williams Trophy is presented to anyone who has given outstanding service to the Society. If you would like to nominate someone for the trophy this year please kindly complete and return the enclosed nomination form to Lucinda by 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**Cotswold TV:** We are hoping to get more of the people who played key roles in the early days of the 'modern' incarnation of the Society, together to do some further filmed interviews at Lower Harford Farm this summer. We will add these interviews to the DVD, which Pat Quinn kindly donated to the Society last year. The result should be a fascinating, and important, addition to the history of our sheep and our Society.

**CSS embroidery logo:** Council was very impressed with the beautifully embroidered logo, which had been stitched, and donated, to the Society by Jan van Beek. This has now been framed and will be displayed at the Society stand.

**Registrations:** Please do not forget to return your Registration Forms to Lynne before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012, which is the closing date for entries in the 2012 flock book. Please contact Lynne or Lucinda if you need another Registration Form. Members are encouraged to keep postage down by registering and transferring more sheep online. If anyone would like any help with doing this please contact Lynne on 01451 830461.

**New members:** A warm welcome is extended to Martin Pearce, Vince Tyack, Christopher Stacey, Steve Penfold, and David and Katharine Waugh who have all joined the Society recently.

## **THANK YOU**

**Angela Reid**

Very sadly owing to continuing health problems **Robin Leach** has been unable to stand for re-election to Council this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his many years of service to the Society. He has been an invaluable member of Council with his unfailing good humour and willingness to help out. Among the numerous tasks he has assisted with, he will be particularly remembered for his contribution to many a show when he was not only instrumental in constructing and dismantling the Society stand, but he then went on to man it, answering all the many sheep related questions that came his way, with charm and intelligence. He will be greatly missed this summer, and we wish him well.

**Davina Stanhope** has also sadly been unable to stand again for Council this year owing to her many work commitments. We would like to thank her for her enormous enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the breed from which Council has greatly benefitted. Indeed her knowledge of the sheep industry as a whole has been invaluable to us. We very much hope that she will find the time to stand again for Council in the near future.

We would also like to thank **Richard Mumford** for all his work as Chairman over the past two years. He has been a steady hand at the helm, and always calm at even the most pressured moments. We are very pleased that he is continuing on Council for another year.

## **EVENTS**

### **Showing and Lamb Finishing Workshop**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Upper Dryton Farm, Dryton, Nr Cressage, Shrewsbury.

(Home of Davina Stanhope's Tingewick Flock)

Davina Stanhope has very kindly offered to host a visit to her Tingewick flock. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see her prize-winning sheep in their home

environment. The day, which will begin at 11.30, will include a Flock Walk, giving you the opportunity to compare Cotswold and Leicester Longwool sheep for yourselves! Davina will also hold workshops on 'Lamb Finishing' and on 'Showing', as well as updating members on the very latest wormers, etc.

Please do let Lucinda know by **11<sup>th</sup> June** ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com) or on 01285 851197) if you'd like to attend this workshop. It promises to be a fascinating and highly educational day; well worth the drive - the farm is just a short drive from the M54, Junction 7 (You will be given full directions!). Lucinda is happy to coordinate car sharing/lifts.

### **Young Handlers**

Don't forget that there will be two new classes for Young Handlers (7 – 11 year olds and 12 – 16 year olds) at each of our Frank Houlton Shows this year, enabling younger members to accumulate points towards their own trophy. Margaret Pursch and Richard Mumford have generously donated trophies for these classes, for which Paul Froehlich has kindly provided rosettes. The Society is also very grateful to Fiona McMahon who has kindly agreed to donate sashes for these classes at Moreton Show this year.

### **Flock Competition**

Please do enter your flock this year - it's a great way to get advice, and a wonderful opportunity to chat about your flock with the judges. Derek Cross and Kate Kay are kindly judging the Competition for us this year. Don't hold back! Return your form to Lucinda ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com) or on 01285 851197) by **20th June** so that the competition can get underway during July/August. The winners will be announced at the Winter Social.

### **The Society Show**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Cirencester Park, Cirencester, GL7 1XB

The Society Show will take place as part of The Cotswold Show, at Cirencester Park. It is an important event for the Society and we would particularly encourage members who have not shown before to come and have a go. It is a wonderful place to begin showing in a warm, friendly and relaxed atmosphere; there will even be novice classes. The Cotswold Show is an excellent two day country show which provides a great opportunity for members, friends and families to have a get together by our stand, which will be there throughout the weekend, although the

Cotswold showing classes will just be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Each member is eligible for one free pass to the show and if you would like one please let Sam Furlong know so that your name can be added to the list for free entry at the Show gate. Please complete the enclosed Society Show forms and return them to Sam by **20th June** ([oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com) or on 01386 593663).

**NSA Sheep 2012**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

The Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW

The Society has a stand at NSA Sheep 2012 and we need your support to help us to man the stand and promote the breed. It is a wonderful event for anyone with an interest in sheep. Please let Sam Furlong know if you are able to help ([oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com) or on 01386 593663).

**The Cotswold Sheep Society Breed Show and Sale**

**Show** - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

**Sale** - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Cirencester Market, Driffield Road, GL7 5QA

Closing Date: 1 July 2012

Please do come and support the Society's annual Show and Sale, which takes place under the auspices of Voyce Pullin's *Sale of Rare and Native Breeds* at Cirencester Market. This breed sale is an extremely important event for the Society; it helps to set the price for our sheep, and provides breeders with a 'shop window' for their flocks.

**Friday 3rd August** - Members with sheep need to arrive by 12.30pm

1pm - Card grading starts (closes at 4.45pm)

3pm – Last entry time for members showing

5pm – Judging begins

Only RED carded sheep are eligible for the show.

**Show on Friday 3rd August:** Judge - Robert Boodle.

Card graders: Richard Mumford and Caroline Cunningham.

Stewards: Margaret Pursch and Sam Furlong.

## **Sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

ALL SHEEP FOR SALE must be at the market by 9.00am on the day of the sale.

For more information or an entry form please contact Chris Voyce on [chris.voyce@btconnect.com](mailto:chris.voyce@btconnect.com) or 01285 869911 or 01291 680068.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Colesbourne Park, Colesbourne, Nr. Cheltenham, GL53 9NP

Lord and Lady Elwes have kindly arranged to welcome us at 11.00 am with coffee, followed by a guided walk around Colesbourne Park. The AGM will start at 2.00 pm. Members should bring their packed lunches. Enclosed with this Newsletter is the formal notice of the AGM together with AGM Agenda and a booking form. Please return the booking form to Lucinda by **20<sup>th</sup> July** ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com) or on 01285 851197)), as it is important for us to have an idea of numbers in advance. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a private tour around Colesbourne Park Arboretum and the Church, so please do come along and support this event.

## **Spinning Workshop**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Wyck Rissington Village Hall, GL54 2PN

Have you ever watched your sheep being sheared and thought, 'I really should learn to do something with that lovely wool'? Now's your chance! Join us for a hand-spinning workshop. We will be using Cotswold fleece and drop spindles, to create a yarn with real character! The workshop will be led by Emma Turner and David Forster, whose Cotswold flock provide the exciting raw materials for their spinning, knitting and weaving. Materials and tools provided. The course will be particularly suitable for beginners. Please let Sam Furlong know by **1<sup>st</sup> July** if you'd like to reserve a place ([oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com) or on 01386 593663), The cost is £20 per person to include materials. Don't forget to bring your packed lunch!

## **The Cotswold Hunt & Farmers' Show**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August

Cotswold Hunt Kennels, Andoversford GL54 4LQ

We would love you to join us at this newly designated "Frank Houlton" show.

Closing date for sheep entries is 4<sup>th</sup> August. Further details can be found on their website ([www.cotswoldhunt.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldhunt.co.uk)).

**Moreton in Marsh Show**  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0NA

This is always one of the highlights of our CSS year so please do come and support this show. Closing date for sheep entries is 13<sup>th</sup> July. For entry forms and further information please go to their website ([www.moretonshow.co.uk](http://www.moretonshow.co.uk)) or telephone the Moreton office on 0870 877 7409.

**Cotswold Woollen Weavers Social Evening**  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012  
Filkins, Nr Lechlade, Gloucestershire GL7 3JJ

Richard Martin has kindly offered to host a “talk” and wine and nibbles evening at Cotswold Woollen Weavers, Filkins, near Lechlade, Glos at 6.30pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. Do pop this event into your diaries; it will be a very good social and informative evening. Please let Sam Furlong know by **1<sup>st</sup> September** if you can come, ([oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com) or on 01386 593663), as we need to have a rough idea of numbers beforehand.

**The Winter Social**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
The Westwood Centre, Bassett Road, Northleach, GL54 3QJ

Please do put the Winter Social in your diaries. This is always a great evening, and provides a really good, informal way of meeting new members, and catching up with old friends. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.

## **THE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD 2012**

We are now looking for a photograph, which we can use for the 2012 Christmas card. If you would like your flock to feature on the card, and you have a good photo of your ‘Cotswolds in Snow’ please do send it to us by 20<sup>th</sup> June. Photos can either be sent by post to Angela Reid, Queenford Farm, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7PH, or emailed to [amreid343@msn.com](mailto:amreid343@msn.com).

## OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Members are reminded that old printer cartridges can be recycled and in return valuable funds flow back to the Society. Lynne Parkes is co-ordinating this and if members have disused cartridges please send them to Lynne.

## DIRECTORY

This directory gives a list of members' products derived from pedigree Cotswold sheep and useful e-mail addresses/phone numbers. If anyone wants to be added to the list please let me know on 01545 590438. Cotswold cross products will be shown only in the Miscellaneous Section.

### Meat

None

### Skins

Lamb skins - **Steve Parkes** – 01451 830461

Lamb and sheep skins – **Angela Reid** – 01865 343133

### Woollen Goods

Knitting wool, body warmers, throws, scarves, cushions - **John Flanders** – 01545 590438; [www.hendraveancotswolds.co.uk](http://www.hendraveancotswolds.co.uk)

Knitting wool – **Edna Powell** – 01453 883646

### Miscellaneous

Sewing machine repairs, knitting wool – **Edna Powell** – 01453 883646

Coloured lamb skins – **Angela Reid** – 01865 343133

Rare breed pork – **Fiona Park** – 01558 669160

Boxed lamb, mutton, and BBQ packs – **Jonathan Brunyee** – 01451 844342;  
[www.conygreefarm.co.uk](http://www.conygreefarm.co.uk)

### E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers

National Sheep Association – 01684 892661; [www.nationalsheep.org.uk](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk)

Farming Connect Service Centre – 08456 000 813

[www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside](http://www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside) (Wales only)

## **SHEEP FOR SALE/WANTED**

This is a free service for buyers and sellers.

The list is constantly being updated, so please do contact the Secretary with requests to buy or sell.

### **FOR SALE:**

**Mr John Flanders**, Glyn Yr Eryr, Talgarreg, Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 4HB

Tel. 01545 590438

HAS FOR SALE `a senior ram and 4 shearling ewes

**The Hon. Mrs Angela Reid**, Queenford Farm, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7PH

Tel. 01865 343133 or 07768 354613

HAS FOR SALE a senior ram and a shearling ram

### **WANTED:**

Would members please supply details of sheep that are wanted

### **RAMS FOR HIRE:**

**Mr Steve Parkes**, 47 King George's Field, Stow On The Wold, Gloucestershire

Tel. 01451 830461

HIRES OUT RAMS and members should contact him for further details.