



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

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19 Elm Grove, Ebrington, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6PE
Tel.: 01386 593663

info@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

Council Officers

Chairman – The Hon. Mrs A. Reid Vice-Chairman – Miss D. Stanhope
Secretary - Ms. S. Furlong Treasurer- Mrs. L. Parkes

Council Members

Mr. D. Cross, Mrs. C. Cunningham, Mr. N Hatch, Mr. R. Mumford,
Mr. S. Parkes, Mrs. M. Pursch, Mrs. S. Webb (co-opted), and Mr. J. Webb (co-opted)

Editor

Mr. J. Flanders

This Newsletter is independently edited and readers should be aware that the views expressed within its pages do not necessarily reflect the views held by Council.



Carol Bateman's shearling ram and shearling ewe taking a well earned rest after both coming first in their respective classes at the RWAS Spring Festival

EDITORIAL

John Flanders

This is my penultimate Editorial as editor of the Newsletter and for various reasons it is probably the shortest that I have edited.

It has been suggested that in future all newsletters could be limited in length to basic information with the web site used for additional extended articles. This has a number of advantages one of which being that there is less time delay between the relevance of the article and the publication of the newsletter. There was an example of this in the last Newsletter when Kate Elliot kindly wrote a topical piece about the flooding on the Somerset Levels; however, due to delays beyond my control, by the time it was published its relevance had diminished somewhat. Nevertheless, in my capacity as a member of the Society and **NOT** as Editor, I enjoy receiving the newsletter with its varied articles about different aspects of keeping Cotswold sheep. Also those who do not have internet facilities would be at a severe disadvantage.

Having said all that, it will up to the next Editor to decide the length and content of the Newsletter. To date no one has come forward to take over when I step down at the end of this year. It would be helpful if a new incumbent was found before the Winter edition so that there is a seamless hand over. So if you have strong feelings as to what you would like to see in future newsletters, why not take over as Editor?

BREED PROMOTION

Richard Broad - RBST

Most new breeders of sheep come into the same situation with lots of breed choice, often confusing information sources and the general lack of specific breed knowledge.

I get most of my new keeper inquiries from the RBST website as well as contacts made at shows and at various RBST linked places such as Farm Parks. Most people seem now to do more web searching than practical looking. Therefore the Society website is very important and should include lots of information, be regularly updated and have clear contact details. I also know of some groups that use Twitter, Face book and other modern social media. I was only recently talking to one breed secretary at the Royal Welsh Spring Festival who, via a Twitter conversation, had obtained free postage for their newsletter, which was quite a saving for the group.

The holding of a National Show and Sale, where new and existing sheep breeders can go along, see and purchase a number of sheep is also important. The quality and number of sheep available will encourage new breeders. This is important as often people can be put off quite quickly if they can only buy lower quality sheep to start with, which then get placed poorly at shows later. These Shows and Sales are now held during quite a busy sale season, so they have to be well advertised for people to know about it.

TANNING

John Flanders

For those members who are interested in tanning their sheep skins, there are, I believe, only two still available namely Devonia and Nikki Port's Organic Sheepskin tannery. Both cater for specialist breeds and customers who have a limited number of skins to be tanned. In the past I have used Nikki Port and have found her to be very helpful.

Technically, unless you are a registered hide merchant, you cannot take your skins home from the abattoir, salt them, and send them to the tannery; unless they are collected from the abattoir, stored in a leak proof container and delivered immediately to the tannery. Thus you would be dependant upon the abattoir to salt and prepare them properly.

However smallholders, who occasionally slaughter sheep, can use form AB117 available from AHVLA (www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/form/ab117) and you will be able to register for the "collection, salting and temporary storage of sheepskins before taking to a tannery". You will need to confirm that the skins will be kept in an outhouse away from animals. The skins are Category 3 i.e. material from animals fit for human consumption.

If you decide to proceed consult your local AHVLA office before proceeding.

COUNCIL CORNER

Associate Membership – Council would very much like to increase the number of Associate Members of the Society. We believe that there may be a number of people who would like to be involved in the Society, read the newsletters, come to events,

and feel that they are supporting a historic rare breed, without actually keeping a flock themselves. An Associate Membership would cost £20 per year and allow the Associate Member all the privileges of full membership except voting rights. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an Associate Member, please ask them to contact Lynne Parkes - we would truly value their support.

‘A Cotswold on a Stamp’ – Council has been informed that a Cotswold sheep has been chosen to feature on a sheet of six miniature stamps issued by The Isle of Man Post Office. The stamps pay tribute to the efforts to save rare breeds of farm animals for the future. They have been designed by internationally renowned artist, Dr Jeremy Paul and they show six threatened breeds of farm animal including Manx Loaghtan sheep, Northern Dairy Shorthorn cattle, Exmoor ponies, Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs, Irish Moiled cattle and Cotswold sheep. These stunning stamps highlight the danger to rare breeds and the loss we will all suffer if any are allowed to become extinct. We hope to have the stamps available on the Society stand this summer and a number of special Cotswold Sheep ‘First Day Covers’ also for sale.

Shearing – It can be a problem finding shearers willing to shear just a few sheep, and if they do come they can be very expensive. Council are considering having a ‘Shearing Day’ when we would obtain a ‘Gathering License’ and a shearer – then members with small flocks could book their sheep in for a specific time and bring them along to be shorn. You would need to bring your sheep dry and shearing would be under cover so this would not be weather dependent. If you might be interested in this scheme, please contact Lynne Parkes. If there is enough interest, it is something we would look at doing next April/May.

Newsletter – Council are still looking for someone to take on the Newsletter when John Flanders retires at the end of the year. If you have ever had any thoughts about what you would like to see in the newsletter when it drops through your door – this is your chance to have a go! Contact Angela Reid (07768 354613) or John Flanders (01545 590438) for further details.

Cotswold Care Workshop – Council are considering setting up a day workshop in March/April 2015 to cover basic care of the Cotswold, to include handling, foot trimming, feeding as well as lambing, and management of ewes and lambs. Every sheep breed has its own characteristics, and this day will be designed to help you get the best out of your Cotswold flock.

Printer Cartridges – Don’t forget... used printer cartridges can make a healthy contribution to Society Funds. Do please bring them along to any events you are

attending, or post them to Lynne Parkes.

Raffle Prizes – We will be running ‘one day’ raffles at Andoversford and Moreton shows – we would be so very grateful for any donation of raffle prizes. Please bring anything you would like to donate along to one of our events, or contact Margaret Pursch on 01285 851526.

EVENTS

Please make a note of these dates in your diary and do come along if you possibly can – we would really value your support.

The Annual General Meeting 2014 & Society Summer Show will take place on Sunday 13th July as part of The Cotswold Country Fair at Andoversford.

The AGM notice and the Summer Show entry form are included with the Newsletter. The Society Show is the perfect place for having a go at showing for the first time with both Novice and Young Handler classes. And there will be fleece classes too - so if you prefer not to bring a sheep – you can always bring up to 2 fleeces instead!

After the showing classes are finished, there will be a ‘Bring and Share’ lunch. The Society will provide bread, cheese and cold meats. We hope that you will bring along your favourite pudding, salad or cake to share.

TIMETABLE

9.30 – Showing classes begin.

1.30 – Lunch

2.30 – AGM (**Please bring a chair!**)

3.00 - Tea

The Show and Sale – Cirencester Market will take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd August as part of Voyce Pullin’s Rare Breed and Minority Breeds Sale. Card graders this year will be Derek Cross and Robert Boodle. Richard Mumford is the show judge. The closing date for entries is 18th July. If you have not received an entry form from Voyce Pullin and wish to enter some sheep, please contact either Voyce Pullin, or Lynne Parkes. Sheep will be accepted for card grading from 2.00pm on Friday and up until 9.00am on Saturday. The Show will begin at around 5.00pm on Friday, so please arrive in good time if you want to enter any red-carded sheep. Remember - supporting the Show and Sale is an important way of supporting the breed.

There will be a BBQ after the show on the Friday evening. Even if you haven't entered sheep, you are most welcome to join us. It is a relaxed, and fun, social evening – so just bring something for the BBQ, and a bottle, and come along.

Council would like to remind you of the rule change regarding the sale of shearling rams, and ram lambs:

'A vendor may enter one shearling ram, or one ram lamb, without restriction. If a vendor wishes to enter more than one, either 2 shearling rams, 2 ram lambs, or a combination of one of each, then a minimum of two females must be entered by the vendor. There is no restriction for senior rams.'

NSA Sheep Event 2014 at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern on 30th July. This is a wonderful event for anyone with an interest in sheep. We will be happy to welcome you on the Society stand. If you can lend a hand manning the stand at some point during the day, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Fund Raising Barbecue at the kind invitation of Richard Mumford on Sunday 31st August at Upper Haselor Farm, Hinton on the Green, at 12.30pm. Tickets to our 'Summer Social' are only £10, to include the BBQ and a glass of Pimms. Just bring a salad, or a pudding, and please do come along. The invitation is included with this Newsletter.

Moreton in Marsh Show - will again be the venue for the Cotswold Sheep Society National Show on Saturday 6th September. This is a really important event for the Society. Alan Lyons will be judging. Livestock schedules are already out, and online and paper entries are being accepted - so please do enter your sheep, or just come along and give us your support. Entries close on Friday 25th July.

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

Woollen Goods

Knitting wool, body warmers, throws, scarves, cushions - **John Flanders** – 01545 590438; www.hendraveancotswolds.co.uk

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

Boxed lamb, mutton, and BBQ packs – **Jonathan Brunyee** – 01451 844342;
www.conygreefarm.co.uk

E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers

National Sheep Association – 01684 892661; www.nationalsheep.org.uk

Farming Connect Service Centre – 08456 000 813

www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside (Wales only)

SHEEP FOR SALE

If you are currently wishing to buy, or sell, sheep - please do remember that the Breed Sale will take place on 2nd August at Cirencester Market – this annual sale is extremely important to the survival of the breed. If you are selling, using the market gives you the opportunity to show off your sheep to the widest number of buyers. If you are buying, you can see a variety of quality Cotswolds, and with all the sheep card graded by experts - you can buy with confidence.

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This page, and the website, provide a free service for buyers and sellers. The list is constantly being updated, so please check the website for the most up to date information.

FOR SALE:

Mrs C Bateman, Cross Keys, Llywel, Brecon, Powys LD3 8RG

Tel. 01874 636549

HAS FOR SALE a ewe lamb - Celtic Lainey (out of Tingewick Corrigan and Celtic Lisa) and a ram lamb – Celtic Lisimba (out of Tingewick Corrigan and Celtic Lily)

Mr S Holmes, 11 Warneford Place, Moreton In Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0LR

Tel. 07515 625852

HAS FOR SALE two grass reared ewe lambs born April 2013 by Westcote Henry

Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6HU

TEL. 01386 840216 (Geoff Carr)

E-MAIL GC@chippingcampden.gloucs.sch.uk

HAS FOR SALE a number of ewes of various ages

WANTED:

None

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.