



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1013326

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Council Officers

Chairman – Mr Bob Palmer

Vice Chairman – Mrs Yvonne Froehlich

Secretary – Mrs Lucinda Foster

Treasurer, Registrar – Mrs Lynne Parkes

Council Members

Mrs Margaret Pursch, Mrs Kate Kay, Mrs C Cunningham

The Hon Mrs A Reid, Mr Robin Leach, Mr Derek Cross, Mr Richard Mumford,

Editors: Norman Kay and Sandra Rath



Lambing time again

Summer 2009 edition

OUR FLOCKS

We are pleased to have an article from Mr. And Mrs. Smallwood, members from Staffordshire. Here they tell us about their flock.

We are Monica and John Smallwood and we live in Staffordshire with our three children Adam, Zoe and Fiona. We started our flock in 2004.

We farm 142 acres, 30 acres of winter Barley the rest grassland. We specialize in Rare Breeds having a herd of Dexters and buying in other rare breed cattle- Belted Galloways, Red Polls, Gloucesters and Beef Shorthorns to finish supplying a local Butcher. Having had 200 commercial sheep that we sold when John's hip collapsed, we decided to start up again with a rare breed. We had a few Southdowns in the past, but decided we wanted to try another breed, Shropshire and Llanwenoggs were short listed, but we thought. we would go to the Rare Breed sale at Melton Mowbray and see what was there, Shropshires were in early due to being M V accredited and they made a lot of money so we looked around and spoke to different breed representatives and decided we quite liked the Cotswolds. We bought 4 Shearlings that had come from Mrs Quinns flock. Then of course we needed a tup and we knew Debbie Mc Kellar used to breed and show Cotswolds and did not live far away from us. She had a mature tup for sale called Tingewick Titus which we liked and so he came home with us. The ewes seemed to take a bit of time to settle perhaps because they came from a large flock and they definitely had minds of their own when it came to try and catch them but eventually we came to an understanding or was it the fact they were heavy in-lamb and couldn't run so fast! Our first year of lambing went well -they all had twins one male one female each, one to sell one to keep. Next year we had all single tups. John's father had to come to live with us in 2004 and



was needing more looking after and our time was being taken up caring for him, and we never got round to joining the society in fact we were not sure whether to carry on with the sheep but eventually we joined the society and registered our sheep.

In 2006 we bought Darleymoore Prince at Chelford Rare Breed sale from Mrs Fearn, to put our home bred shearlings. Although not having time to show we did take Titus to the local County Show as an exhibit for the local Rare Breed group on their stand. He was very popular and loved the attention.

We seemed to get a lot of tup lambs so in 2007 we bought 3 shearlings from Mr Shelton's Millennium flock and a shearling and a ewe lamb from Davina Stanhopes Tingewick flock from the autumn Rare Breed at Chelford. In 2008 we registered 6 ewe lambs and bought two 2nd shear ewes from Tyndale flock and 2 ewe lambs one from the Darleymoore flock and one from the Bramble flock again from Chelford 2009 has seen a good lambing with 3 sets of triplets, with 21 lambs from 10 ewes 12 being ewe lambs. Unfortunately we lost Titus this year; he was 10 years old, and we lost a ewe with twin lamb disease. We would like to have 20-25 ewes, breeding our replacements and perhaps having a few good enough to sell as breeding stock. We have been pleased with their ease of lambing and the qualities of the lambs, and glad we choose Cotswolds and although we breed them pure we think they would make excellent commercial ewes crossed with Texels or Suffolks. We have used the Cotswold tup on our Jacob ewe and her Jacob x Ryland daughter and have excellent lambs off them both, three of them are black with lovely soft fleece.

We would like to thank Lynne Parkes for her patience and encouragement, and also everyone we have met that keep Cotswolds for their friendliness. One day we may get to some of the meetings but at the moment that hasn't been possible but we hope to get to the one at Chelford the night before the sale and are pleased it is going to be a society sale - better get saving



MONEY MATTERS!

GIFT AID, STANDING ORDERS and WILLS

The Cotswold Sheep Society is a small charity and one which depends very much on subscriptions and donations to be able to function. We are currently in a position where our essential costs last year were substantially (£1200) greater than our income, and we need to address this as soon as we possibly can (See Council Corner), consequently the Chairman is asking for your help.

- 1) **Gift Aid:** This is the key to resolving our immediate financial difficulties. It is a scheme in which all UK taxpayers can take part. When a taxpayer gives a donation, or pays a subscription to a charity, they have already paid tax on that money. UK charities are generally exempt from tax, therefore they can claim back from HM Revenue and Customs a sum equal to the tax paid on that money by the donor. The fact that this can now be applied to both donations and subscriptions, is fairly recent, and means that signing a Gift Aid form has become even more important for a charity than before.

In the case of the Cotswold Sheep Society, if you sign a Gift Aid form, your subscription of £30 enables the charity to claim back a minimum of £7.50 in tax, and it will not cost you an additional penny. If you do decide to join the Gift Aid scheme you can be assured that the extra money received by the Society will be a vital, and valued, addition to our funds.

Please, please take part - all you need to do is either fill in the form enclosed with the Newsletter, or download one from www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk and increase the value of your subscription to the Society by a most valuable 25%. If you need further hard copies in future, more detailed information, or if you are not sure if you have already signed a Gift Aid Form, please contact Lynne on 01451 830461 or at lynne_parkes@msn.com. Once you have completed the Gift Aid form please could you return it to Lynne Parkes as soon as possible.

- 2) **Standing Orders:** Setting up a Standing Order (form enclosed) to pay your subscription greatly assists the Society because knowing when a subscription will be received enables the Society to plan necessary spending more efficiently. It also reduces administrative costs substantially as there is no time wasted chasing up unpaid subscriptions, and also saves you time, postage and possibly bank charges. Any higher rate tax payers should keep a copy of the form for their tax return.
- 3) **Wills:** Leaving a sum of money to the Cotswold Sheep Society in your will, however large or small, will ensure the future survival of not only the Society, but much more importantly, the wonderful sheep it represents.

Angela Reid

COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY WOOL DAY, APRIL 19TH 2009.

By Rob Harvey-Long

A beautiful day greeted the Members to Derek and Maggie Cross's Wool Day at Wyck Rissington near Stow on the Wold.

The day began with a demonstration of shearing, and was followed by a most entertaining and informative talk by former British Wool Marketing board judge Mr David Jones who has been a Wool Judge for many years, and has judged many of our competitions.

He outlined the many problems associated with producing good wool, including the importance of feeding, the places where sheep are kept, breeding, the need to produce white wool to meet the demand from buyers, and the relative merits of the individual fleeces that had just been sheared.

After a lengthy question and answer session, we retired to Wyck Rissington Village Hall for lunch. There was an all day demonstration of spinning by the Members of the Oxford Spinning Guild and it was good to see their appreciation of Cotswold wool and enthusiasm for spinning it.



After lunch we had another demonstration of shearing and a lesson by David Jones on how to correctly roll a fleece, followed by a further questions and answers session.

Derek Cross talked about his sheep and what to look for when assessing Ewes and Lambs and the important points to bear in mind when assessing sheep.

The day ended with presentations and thanks to Derek and Maggie for all their hard work in organising such a successful Wool Day, which was well attended by Members, and to David Jones who had travelled so far to speak to us.

A HISTORY LESSON AT WYCK RISSINGTON.

By Angela Reid

After lunch, and before the afternoon shearing session at Wyck Rissington, Rob Harvey Long gave a fascinating talk on his researches into the history of the Cotswold sheep. He has been looking at the origins of the Cotswold and told us how the Romans arrived in Britain and been less than impressed by our small, wiry native sheep. Consequently they introduced a larger, more solidly built sheep, with short wool, to improve our native stock. He has discovered that these sheep may have originally come from the Coraxi region of Russia, which is part of modern day Georgia. It is a mountainous region admirably adapted for the breeding of sheep.



Over the years these imported sheep increased in size as their meat was important, as well as their wool. In Medieval times the Cotswold wool was still short, fine and strong; it was considered one of the best quality wools Britain produced. Indeed for many years the Venetians rowed their galleys all the way from Venice to Southampton to buy large quantities of it. In fact it was only during the nineteenth century that the Cotswold wool became longer and coarser; the result of Robert Bakewell's revolutionary stockbreeding programme.

However, perhaps Rob's most interesting, and tantalising, line of research, was his unravelling of the myth of Chrysomallos; the winged ram with the Golden Fleece, so sought by Jason and his Argonauts. The extraordinary coincidence is that this myth also has its roots in the Coraxi region. So could it be that the Golden Fleece (in reality probably a fleece used to trap small pieces of gold from the streams that ran out of the gold mines for which the area was famous) actually belonged to a Cotswold forebear? Maybe as Rob suggested, DNA testing could be the way to prove the connection - so if anyone is heading for Georgia, please do let us know.

COUNCIL CORNER

Secretary Lucinda Foster
Tel: 01285 851197

E mail: 15barnsley@dsl.pipex.com

The Society has decided to print in the newsletter a brief outline of what the Council is discussing at its meetings: Currently this includes:

AGM at Wyck Rissington on Sunday 26th July 2009

**** AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ****

Please do try and come along as there are some important issues which need discussing at this year's AGM. It is also a good opportunity for members to get together.

There have been seven nominations for four vacancies on Council. We would urge everyone to vote either in person at the AGM or by using the proxy voting sheet attached. Please contact Lucinda on 01285 851197 if you have any queries.

**THE SOCIETY SHOW on Sunday 5th July 2009 at Cirencester
Park**

**** AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ****

Summer is nearly upon us & thoughts turn to the show season. Many of you will be running your eyes over that fabulous shearling ram in the field & wondering whether this could indeed be the year that he wins "best in breed" at the Society Show. Why not dip your toes in the "showing" water this year & come to

Cirencester on the 5th July - bring your lovely ram (& ewes & lambs) & your white coat & have a go. The Society Show is friendly & informal & you will receive much support & encouragement & the rosettes are plentiful!!

This year we are very hopeful that we will not be troubled by foot& mouth/blue tongue/ floods & other pestilence. We have been promised amazing weather & you can have an excellent day out at the Cirencester Show .All you need to do is fill in the entrance form & send it back to Kate Kay with the fees & then you can spend the next few weeks dreaming of the glory to come.....! "

**THE RARE AND TRADITIONAL BREED SHOW AND
SALE**

Friday 31st July and Saturday 1 August in Cirencester

**** AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ****

This event is being organised by Voyce Pullin and an entry form is attached. All members are encouraged to come and support this Show and Sale. For more information on this event please contact Voyce Pullin on 01291 680068 or email them on chris@voycepullin.co.uk.

The Annual Financial Report up to 31st March 2009

The Annual Financial Report showed a deficit of £1200.49. Mrs L Parkes reported that nearly all income areas were down particularly subscriptions, registrations and donations.

Council agreed to look at the following ways to increase income for the next financial year:

- a) investigate the availability of grants
- b) distribute the Cotswold sheep book to more shops
- c) increase the number of flock book advertisements
- d) reduce the printing price for the next flock book
- e) look at alternative ideas for the Winter Social event at the AGM
- f) ensure all members complete a gift aid form

Mr R Palmer was concerned about the deficit and set out below estimate increases to the income figures which he believed would be achieved this year, from actions already taken

- a) £800 from the increase in subscription fees
- b) £250 from the gift aid on those increased subscription fees
- c) £500 from additional gift aid if all members signed a gift aid form

The Society Stand:

Mr Derek Cross is looking into various options in respect of a new Society stand and the Chairman has agreed to make a decision on the new stand at the next Council meeting to be held on 1st July 2009.

Flock Advisory Service

Council are so grateful to the current CSS Judges who have kindly agreed to act as Flock Advisors to local members in their area.

If you would like advice please do contact your nearest Flock Advisor and if a visit is required they will charge £10 per visit with mileage charged at 50p per mile.

It is important that all money should be paid to the Society and then given back to the Flock Advisor concerned as the liability must remain with the Society rather than the individual Flock Advisor.

Mr Robert Boodle, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire – 01242 603181 (TBC)

Mrs Caroline Cunningham, Chippenham – 01380 859968

Mr Paul Froehlich, Lighthorne, Warwickshire – 01926 650098

Mr Thomas Jackson, Stroud, Gloucestershire – 01285 760544

Mr Alan Lyons, Wells, Somerset – 01749 822203

Mr Richard Mumford, Evesham, Worcestershire – 01386 860373

Mr Bob Palmer, Shipston On Stour, Warwickshire – 01608 685461

Mr Steve Parkes, Stow On The Wold, Gloucestershire – 01451 830461

Ms Davina Stanhope, Shrewsbury, Shropshire – 01952 740731

OTHER SHOWS which may be of interest to members:

The second Brinkworth Festival of Native and Traditional Breeds is to be held on Sunday 6th September 2009. Please contact Wendy Chambers on . 01225 859519 or e-mail her at wendy@maywest.plus.com if you would like any further information about this event.

The Chelford Show is being held on Saturday 19th September 2009. It is hoped that the Society will hold a social event on the Friday evening beforehand for members and more details will follow about this in the next newsletter but please do pop this date into your diaries as it will be a lovely opportunity for a get together.

New members: A warm welcome is extended to Mr Charles Cook from Stroud, Mr Ben Brown from Witney and Mrs Ruth Snape from Brize Norton all who have joined the Society recently.

SHEEP - FROM LAMB TO LOOM

We were pleased to be asked to contribute to an exhibition held at the Brewery Arts Centre in Cirencester to celebrate the town's history with the wool trade. As part of this celebration we were invited to drive a flock of Cotswold sheep through the town centre, and Derek Cross kindly assisted. Rob Harvey Long was on hand to help, and he writes:

Saturday May 9th, 2009 was a memorable day for Cirencester, the beautiful Cotswold town that had centuries before been the Romans Capital in the West, they called it Corinium.

Over many centuries Cotswold sheep and their wool had been brought here to the Markets, and the town had grown and prospered because of this.

So it was a great feeling to come in to Cirencester on this May day in 2009 and see a small flock of Derek Cross's Cotswold sheep being carefully shepherded through the Cirencester streets once again !.

The Society had brought their show stand to the town and the sheep created enormous interest, especially when a yearling ram jumped out of his pen, to the amusement of many of shoppers and visitors to the town that were curious to know what was going on and learn more about the sheep.

As a public relations exercise it was an enormous success, and featured later on the front pages of the two local newspapers. Grateful thanks go to Derek and all the many Society members who turned up to help and answer the many questions asked



EID

by Paul Froehlich

(Electronic Identification of Sheep)

Having attended the NSA breed forum in March I can not claim to be an expert on this subject but I think I can explain a little about it and how it will affect us. The first thing to say is that apart from a more expensive ear tag, it will make little impact on most Cotswold sheep breeders. Sheep will have to carry two tags, one electronic tag (the Electronic Identifier) and an identical non electronic one. The tag number will record the holding of birth as well as the animal's unique individual number; it may also record the society flock number.

However, it should be noted that plans are not yet finalised and the NSA is still fighting a rear guard action to get the rules changed, if not abolished, while DEFRA is still consulting with the industry on how best to implement the rules. There are apparently three alternatives on the table and while it is obvious that one rule will not suit all of the UK, let alone Europe, we will be stuck with one set of European rules and they have to be made to work.

- a) It seems fairly obvious at this stage that sheep over 12 months old will have to have an electronic tag, although your records do not have to be kept electronically and there is no requirement for you to have a tag reader.
- b) It also looks likely that lambs going direct to slaughter under 12 months old will not have to have an electronic tag nor be recorded individually, although this is an area that is currently under review.
- c) What is clear is that you will not be able to keep sheep on a batch number that are older than 12 months. The practice of keeping lambs until they are shearlings before tagging them will have to stop, regardless of whether they are going to be kept for breeding or sold for slaughter.
- d) Any sheep that leaves its holding of birth, and is not going directly to slaughter, will have to have an EID. There is a lot of debate about store lambs that will be slaughtered before they are 12 months. This is a very sticky area as it could prove impossible for store lamb finishers to conform to the EID rules without fitting electronic tags. These would have to be fitted on the holding that the lambs were born on.

There continues to be a huge amount of debate about the number of records and type of movement documents that will have to be kept. They all sound a bit scary, and if I still had several hundred sheep to worry about I would be concerned, but with a small flock I do not think it will have much impact, regardless of which derogation we finish up with. Even if we do have to record each individual movement it seems likely that if we move our sheep around in a bunch, we will still be able to record the batch

movement rather than having to write down each animal's ear number. We will have to record each animal's number that we take to shows, but that is nothing new for us.

Personally I think EID offers huge opportunities to the sheep industry and many speakers reflected this, although reluctantly, and it was said on several occasions that in three years time we may well look back and wonder what all the fuss was about!!

BLUETONGUE

With the kind permission of the Tyndale Farm Veterinary Practice near Berkeley, we reproduce the advice and comments from their information sheet.

Vaccination is a single dose for sheep, whether or not they were done last year. Lambs can be done from four weeks of age. This may be different advice than was given last year but we are dealing with variable levels of colostral derived immunity this year because of previous vaccination. You can use either the Bovilis brand of vaccine or the Merial (PUR8). Both will work but come in different pack sizes with slightly different prices. Basically larger flocks will be better using the Merial PUR8 100 dose pack size and the smaller ones the 20 or 50 dose Bovilis vaccination bottle.

When to vaccinate: Any time but no great rush. As long as it is done by the end of June it should be fine. There is no problem doing animals now before turnout.

Whether to vaccinate: There is still a lot of discussion and rumour on this subject although no hard evidence to put anybody off vaccination. It is still the considered opinion of all the vets in this practice that you should vaccinate all farm animals for BTV8.

Future problems: There are two problems expected this year. Firstly, that the success of last year's vaccine and the lack of significant disease in the UK will mean a lower uptake this year and therefore more disease and secondly the entry of bluetongue (BTV1) which is in Northern France and for which the BTV8 vaccines offer no cover. At present we are not allowed to vaccinate for BTV1 anyway.

Sheep for sale

To advertise your sheep for sale e-mail your details to
paul@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

For registrations and transfer details e-mail
registrations@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

Mrs S Tooze & Mr D Rashley have for sale:

RAMS

Tooley Dutch - C9223 : DOB 21/01/2005

Sire C6861 Meyse Henry: Dam C7928 Tooley Anemone

Tooley Fir - C10395 : DOB 18/01/2007

Sire C8229 Tingewick Kato : Dam C7929 Tooley Aster

Mrs Fearn has for sale 1 ram lamb sired by Westcote Dominic. Please contact her on Tel 01629 734667 (Westcote Dominic was sired by Derek Cross's Royal show winning ram Beethoven)

Alex Field has the following for sale:

1 shearling ram, Karimba Toto, by Tingewick Henri, and two ram lambs as yet unregistered. One is also by Henri and the other is by Tingewick Kermit who passes on very nice wool. alf29@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Derek Cross has several Cotswold sheep for sale, he can be contacted on **01993 831526**

Rob Harvey Long has some sheep of different ages for sale, these include stock ewes and shearling ewes, he can be contacted on 07810 724 677

Sam Palmer has 4 shearling ewes for sale, see below for contact details.

Norman and Kate Kay have for sale the following

* Ram lamb Middlewick Bilbo. Sire Bramble Kipper; dam Middlewick Eowyn,

* Shearling ewe Middlewick Arwen. Sire: C7743 Middlewick Frodo; Dam: C8577 Middlewick Silmarillion

* Shearling ewe Middlewick Ariadne Sire: Middlewick Frodo; Dam: Middlewick Tal-dur C9229

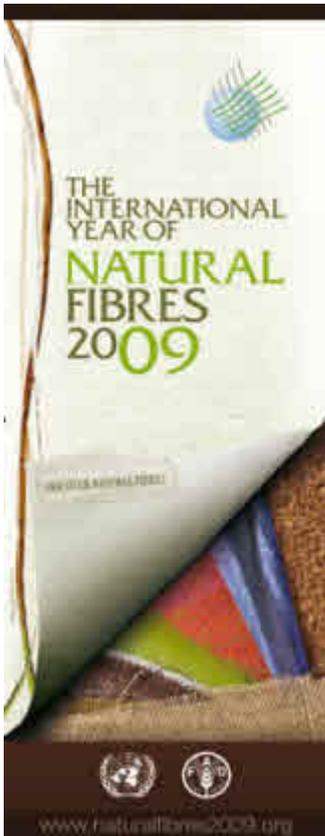
Frodo was breed champion at the Three Counties Show and interbreed champion at the Berkeley Show.

The Queenford Flock winner of the society flock competition 2007 contact Mrs Angela Reid amreid343@msn.com Tel:01865843133

Sam Palmer Cotswold's , ***The Radway flock*** established in 1984 is a prize winning flock with outstanding bloodlines .We are always competing at the shows . Senior rams, shearling rams and shearling ewes always for sale. Contact Sam 07837007308

DID YOU KNOW?

The International Year of Natural Fibres - IYNF



The Food and Agriculture Society of the United States 'FAO' has denoted 2009 as the International Year of the Natural Fibre.

This covers the promotion of all natural fibres including wool, cotton, silk, hemp, flax and many others.

Natural fibres are being promoted as:
Healthy, high tech, sustainable, responsible and fashionable.

Synthetics, created by the petrochemical industry , have taken the place of natural fibres for many years, however, as the world moves towards combating global warming it is once again welcoming the production of goods from natural fibres which has less impact on the earth.

For more information visit
www.naturalfibres2009.org

Sandra Rath

FROM THE EDITORS

Articles Wanted

Would you like to join the debates currently ongoing in the newsletter, or would you like to start another one?

Do you have an interesting article that you would like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter? If so contact either of us at the telephone numbers or Email addresses below.

We would love to hear about your flock with a few words and a picture, or your views on the future of the breed or anything else about your sheep that you would like to share with us.

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone that has contributed towards this edition of the newsletter.

Newsletter in Colour

This newsletter is available as a PDF file, so if you would like to receive a copy in full colour, rather than black and white, please contact Lucinda or Norman with your Email address.

Views in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors or the Society.

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Norman and Sandra