



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1013326

Spring 2010

Hampton Rise, 1 High Street, Meysey Hampton, Gloucestershire, GL7 5JW
info@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

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, Angela Reid



Spring is here

EDITORIAL

At the moment the rain has stopped and maybe Spring is on its way, although there is still a cold wind, which is holding back the grass but hopefully this will change in the next few weeks.

In this edition Judy Wilkie has kindly written about her flock and it is gratifying to know that, as a relatively new shepherd (only 15 years) I am following the same routine as someone with considerably more experience. Her idea of filling the creep feeder at night in order to minimise theft by crows and rooks is something new to me and I will try it out.

Also, Angela Reid has written a lengthy article on wool and, having read it, I am considerably wiser about the British Wool Marketing Board and the characteristics of Cotswold wool.

The Winter 2010 edition had an article entitled “The View From Here” which was intended to be a little cameo of what has recently happened here in West Wales and I was hoping that three or four other members would be willing to contribute similar articles from different parts of the country. Sadly there has been no response from anyone and thus the series is not a nationwide snapshot of people’s experiences with Cotswold sheep.

Similarly, the format of the Newsletter has altered and it would be helpful if there was feed back from the membership to the changes.

The very cold snap just before Easter caused havoc and I hope members did not suffer the same fate as a neighbouring farm who had 100 lambs die in that atrocious weather; thankfully we lost none.

Enough of my comments; I hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to hearing from you.

John Flanders

THE WEYLODE FLOCK

by
Judy Wilkie

Jim and I met when Shuttleworth College visited Studley College for a college dance. Now we have a smallholding in South Gloucestershire where I keep a small flock of Cotswolds. The sheep have always been my interest as Jim is involved with old machinery and documentary films, writes a monthly column in Vintage Spirit and has written several books. We are called the Weylode flock as Jim invented and we still sell the Weylode load weighing system.

I am therefore, except for emergencies when I call on family help, a single handed shepherd.

Many farms were mixed with cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry when I started working in 1958 and despite milking I always managed to keep my hand in with some lambing. When the family came along I kept ten Gloucester Old Spot sows and helped run a flock of show winning Hampshires and later the first imported Charollais sheep which went on to win the Royal Show classes. I also ran a small flock of my own often being given lambs to add to my flock.

When we acquired some land I decided to keep rare breed and top of the list was the Cotswold and I spent quite a lot of time round the show pens at the various shows discussing Cotswolds.

My first sheep were purchased from Frank Williams as Jim knew Frank through the vintage movement and was happy to visit him to look at the machinery while I bought some sheep. As a result we came away with two shearlings and a ram, Haskins Garth (a premium ram before the scheme was scrapped in 1989).

The first year I used Garth on all my sheep, which lambed easily and the crossbred lambs graded well in the market. I kept a couple of Hampshire Cotswold crosses and of course they looked just like Oxford Downs. Gradually I culled my commercial sheep and replaced them with Cotswolds and after a while I started in a small way to show my sheep with some success.

Over the years I have enjoyed attending all the events and workshops put on by the Society and also the Society's Centenary Celebration at Church House, Gloucester Cathedral in June 1992. Great days were spent round the ring at many shows talking to people like Mr Garne who had such a wealth of knowledge about Cotswolds to

pass on. When I took on the care of my Mother I was no longer able to show my Cotswolds, which I greatly missed.

On being asked to stand for Council I was elected and served for nine years. This was a most interesting time and I learnt a great deal about the organisation of the Society. We met in my time at Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and latterly at Aldsworth.

My flock is smaller now; only eight to ten ewes and the lambs are mainly used as meat for family and friends. A few are sold and made into sausages for farmers' markets. The ewes make good mutton even when quite old when we normally halve the legs and mince the rest. Flock replacements are kept from the best ewe lambs.

On the management front I continue to worm and use Vetrazine on the lambs and on the ewes after shearing. Since the scheme started I have vaccinated for Blue Tongue. At present I do not use Heptavac or similar products having stopped five years ago. This is partly because of the problem as usual of only having a few sheep.

Since foot and mouth in 2001 when I started shearing my sheep again, I have continued to do them myself. I can no longer shear with the sheep sitting nor can I use a shearing set any more. Now I use a combination of hand shears (which must be kept sharp) and dressmaking scissors. Although this probably sounds odd it does mean that I can never develop blisters as I change over as needed and scissors are great for round the eyes, teats, and the rams underside. Last year Steve Parkes told me about Jakoti shears and they are the best I have ever used. It costs me nothing to shear and I can do them as early or late as I like and never have to panic about weather, shearers, or maggots. The sheep stand with their heads in my George Mudge yoke which I use for everything such as feet trimming, dosing, and even to hold a ewe if adopting a lamb on to her. Whilst shearing, most of my ewes cud quite happily although there is always one who objects the first year.

It is a slow process as it can take as long as twenty to forty minutes a sheep. Normally I would plan to do three or four sheep a day to fit in with other work. I checked with the Wool Board and there is no penalty for splitting the fleece down the back and I have been told by a wool judge it should not cause problems when showing fleeces but I expect marks would be lost for presentation as it is not such a tidy roll.

Now days I hire a tup as, for an older single handed shepherd with a small number of sheep, it saves so many problems. My sheep are lambed in a barn having free access to a yard and shut in at night because of the fox problem. As soon as they have

lambled the lambs have their navels dipped in iodine and they are penned up with the ewe so they can mother up. This is rarely a problem with Cotswolds as they are such good mothers but the old skills of skinning a dead lamb and tying the skin onto the lamb to be fostered or soaking the lamb in amniotic fluid and wrapping the ewes cleansing around the lamb can still come in handy. We used to tie the foster lambs legs together for half an hour or so it does not get up like a race horse as that can cause suspicion to a canny ewe. Before they leave the lambing pens I tag, castrate, and tail the lambs as required. The ewes are wormed, foot trimmed, and dagged if needed. They are all fed on hay from hayracks and sheep nuts. The lambs have access to creep feed which I feed in a pig hut with creep rails on the front as the crows and rooks steal more readily if the creep feeder rack is in the field. I also fill it at night as this helps. My lambing percentages are usually around 170% but 200% has been achieved.

Cotswold sheep are great to work with as they are generally placid and stay within the fences and walls. As a result of having my Cotswolds I have made many friends and by serving on Council I have learned a great deal about things to do with management and legislation to mention just a couple of subjects. I am so glad I chose Cotswold sheep and hope the Society will continue to flourish.

Judy Wilkie

(I was very kindly given a pair of Jakoti shears and I would fully endorse the comments made by Judy concerning them – Ed.)

DAVID JONES
of BWMB

Last year the Cotswold Sheep Society's Frank Williams Trophy was awarded to David Jones who recently retired from the British Wool Marketing Board as Regional Manager (Wales and Southern England) and the National Sheep Association have presented him with the George Hedley Memorial Award. The award, which is extremely prestigious, takes the form of a Cheviot sheep and is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the sheep industry.

The Society has offered him their congratulations at receiving the award

THE VIEW FROM HERE
John Flanders – Hendra Veau Flock
West Wales

With my wish granted and the snow finally gone, I was looking forward to lambing and the prospect of warm weather with lambs gambolling in the fields, unfortunately that dream was shattered in early February when three of my rams were killed by dogs. The felony was compounded by the fact that I knew which dogs did it, but had no evidence; also we were not insured. For the relatively small cost involved I would strongly recommend that members insure their sheep against dogs attacks, it may not help the loss of an animal, but it will buffer the bank balance.

Moving swiftly on, lambing was certainly interesting this year with, on day two, a ewe needing a caesarean at 5.30 am followed a few days later by a ewe with ringwomb. According to our vet there has been more ringwomb than usual this year. In our 15 years of keeping sheep we have never experienced either of these problems before.

In December a friend recommended a different feed as he had found it to be very good, but on balance we have decided to return to our previous feed manufacturer. The average lamb weights have been much the same as last year, although we did have a single weighing nearly 16 lbs (7.2 kg).

To date I have only single tagged the lambs until they leave the farm, but this year we have had a change of policy and decided to double tag early on those that will be sold at the local mart, and that includes all the ram lambs unless they are exceptionally good and any ewe lambs that we would not want to keep as replacements or sell for breeding. The advantage of this approach is that those to be sold are readily identifiable.

Now that the weather is improving I shall go out and chain harrow some of the fields.

John Flanders

WOOL and the WOOL BOARD

History

The Cotswold sheep has a long and distinguished history. There has been a good deal of research into its past and a considerable amount of disagreement about its origins. The most commonly held belief is that this large sheep with its lustrous wool arrived with the Romans who felt that our small native breeds did not produce wool of sufficient quality to keep them warm through our bitter winters. There are others who say this is incorrect and that the Cotswold sheep was already here prior to the arrival of the Romans. While its early history is shrouded in confusion, there is little disagreement that wool from Cotswold sheep has played an important part in the development of the towns and villages of the Cotswold Hills. Wool, that was once so important to the wider economy that it was said that the wealth of England rode on the back of a sheep, has in recent times become almost worthless.



'Long soft shearling fleece - perfect for worsted cloth'

‘The main reason for this decline,’ explains Richard Martin of Cotswold Woollen Weavers, ‘is that prior to 1840 only the wool from the longwool breeds, such as the Cotswolds, could be made into worsted yarns. After 1840 machines were developed which could spin worsted yarn from shorter woolled breeds of sheep and the need for longwools dropped.’

The British Wool Marketing Board

The British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB), which is a farmer run organisation, was set up in 1950 to operate a central marketing system for wool, with the aim of achieving the best possible net return for producers. For many years the price of wool was subsidised by the government, however in 1992 the subsidy was withdrawn and the value of the annual clip was established according to the price paid by buyers at a series of auctions held throughout the year; last year there were 22 auctions. At the same time the increasing use of synthetic fibres meant that the quantity of wool needed worldwide was reduced. The result was a drop in the wool price and it has been in a general decline ever since.

For those who are new to sheep keeping, and if you have more than four sheep, you have to register your flock with the BWMB which, you can do via their website www.britishwool.org.uk and then you deliver (they will collect, but it is expensive!) your wool into one of their regional collection points in wool sacks supplied by the BWMB. Your sacks will be weighed as you unload them, and soon the post will bring you a very small cheque! This is the Advance payment for the wool you have taken in. The BWMB will then grade your wool and then sell it over the course of the year (2010/11) via a number of auctions. At the end of the wool year, they will work out the average price paid for your wool and issue you a Balance cheque, which will also, rather confusingly, include an Advance payment for 2011, which has recently been 12p/kg.

Last year the cheque for Cotswold wool was 37p/kg - which was made up of the ‘Advance’ payment for the 2009 clip of 12p/kg and the ‘Balance’ payment for 2008 of 25p/kg - this year it is hoped the ‘Balance’ payment for 2009 will be more like 45-50p/kg. This is certainly no reason to break out the champagne, but if the wool cheque covers the cost of shearing, then surely there will be more hope for the future of our sheep.

‘Indeed the outlook for wool appears brighter than for many years,’ says Mark Powell, the chief Wool Marketing Officer at the BWMB. He explains that there are several reasons for this. One is the growing demand for environmentally sustainable

and natural products with a low carbon foot print; another is the fall in the value of sterling which has made the UK an attractive market place; and the third is the reduced amount of wool available. This last reason is the result of declining sheep numbers as many more sheep than usual are being killed to take advantage of the high prices being paid for mutton as well as lamb.



A wide staple and good crimp

Most 'good' Cotswold fleeces fall into Grade 506 along with various other lustre longwool breeds such as Lincolns and Leicester's. Altogether last year the BWMB sold all 17,000 kilos of this grade of wool, usually to as referred to as 'Lincoln Lustre'. Do remember however that a matted, dirty, badly wrapped fleece will be down-graded. As the BWMB website says, 'It takes a sheep 12 months to grow a fleece, but a few minutes carelessness can ruin it.' It is worth while looking at their website to see all the 'Do's and Don'ts' connected with presenting your wool to its best advantage.



'Plain, coarser wool from the breech area'

While wool prices in general are looking somewhat healthier, there is certainly room for improvement. If we can find a niche market for our wool, then prices can improve substantially. For an example of how valuable wool can be one only has to look at the Wensleydales. Their wool has a longer staple than the Cotswold, is finer and with a deeper lustre. It is used for knitting yarns and also for dolls' hair – and is currently achieving £4.50 p/kg!

The Qualities of Cotswold Wool

So what is it that makes a 'good' fleece? According to David Jones, who has recently retired from the BWMB and is a regular judge of Cotswold fleece classes, a fleece must be uniform in quality and have a good depth of lustre. Uniformity means that the wool has a similar staple and crimp throughout the fleece. For anyone who is new to sheep, the staple is the term for naturally formed clusters, or locks, of wool fibres which are held together by cross fibres, while the crimp is the number of bends along the wool fibre and these indicate spinning capacity of the wool; the finer the wool the more bends in the fibres. A 'good fleece' must also be clean, white and properly rolled.

David Jones describes Cotswold wool as being up with the best. Indeed it is the strength, resilience, and springiness of the fibre, which make the wool so special. Not only is it 'pleasant to the eye,' but it takes a dye well, and is often mixed with other wools with weaker fibres to give them strength. Shearling wool is softer than the wool from an older sheep, and is used where both softness and strength are needed such as in the production of worsted yarn. The essential feature of such a yarn is the straightness of the wool fibres, which are combed so that they lie parallel to each other, the result being a smoother, more lustrous, and stronger yarn, which can be woven into worsted cloths, such as Harris Tweed.



'Plenty of crimp, narrow staple'

The longevity of garments made from such cloth, does have one downside as David Jones explains, 'the best wool outlasts fashion.' That wonderful jacket however, will no doubt be back in fashion in twenty years time and will be extricated from the wardrobe looking as good as when it was deposited there all those years earlier. The coarser wool, such as that round the sheep's breech, will often be used by carpet manufacturers when its qualities of resilience and strength are highly valued.



Irregular staple and crimp

The Importance of Contented Sheep.

When asked what affects the quality of a sheep's fleece David Jones listed a whole string of factors which included correct nutrition, lambing – particularly multiple births, weather and health. When examining this list it is clear that the key factor is stress. After the severe winter such as we have had, David Jones suggests we should not rush to shear our sheep as they should be allowed time to recover from the stress of the severe cold combined with lambing. 'Maybe wait until June if you can,' he advises. So perhaps, if it is possible, only show sheep should be shorn early and the rest of the flock should be left for a while until the warm weather and spring grass have had time to work their magic.

Further Information.

For a thought-provoking website on 'all things wool', visit www.woolipedia.com. Here you will find an extensive range of wool products, many fascinating facts about wool, and information on HRH The Prince of Wales's launch, in January, of The Wool Project, which is a sheep industry initiative to raise the profile, and consequently the price, of wool.

For an opportunity to hear more about wool directly from David Jones, and to learn how to assess your own fleeces, do sign up to come to the **CSS WORKSHOP on Sunday 23rd May**, it really should be a most fascinating day.

Angela Reid

FLYSTRIKE

(Blow-fly Myiasis)

General

In the summer and early autumn, flystrike is one of the major problems when keeping sheep and at some time shepherds will have seen the effects of flystrike and for those who have not it is quite horrible.

Flystrike is caused by blue and greenbottle flies laying their eggs in the soiled or dirty fleeces of sheep. The eggs hatch and the resultant maggots burrow into the skin especially if it is already damaged. The maggots then proceed to eat the flesh of the sheep and if not treated the animal can slowly and painfully be eaten to death.

All age groups are affected, but it usually occurs in the summer and early autumn if the weather is warm. However, there have been cases reported as early as April.

In the case of Cotswolds and other longwool breeds, the length and thickness of the fleece, make it imperative that flystrike is kept under control, more so than in many other breeds. Regular dagging is vitally important in this respect.

Indications

The flies are attracted to the areas of faecal soiling or where there is skin damage and this can include in the feet, particularly if there is foot rot or scald. The eggs of the flies only take a few days to hatch and the maggots then burrow into the skin.

Characteristic features of fly strike are:

- 1 The fleece changes to a light buff colour where the maggots have infested the animal.
- 2 When the rump or area below the tail is affected, exaggerated tail wagging occurs associated with an attempt by the sheep to nibble the affected area.
- 3 Sheep often stand apart from the rest of the flock

Treatment

Clearly prevention is the best course of action, but if an animal is struck treatment must be given quickly as it is very painful to the sheep. The basic treatment is as follows:

- 1 Clip the affected area to remove the wool.
- 2 Remove as many maggots as possible; it is essential that you move quickly since they swiftly burrow into the fleece if insufficient has been removed.
- 3 Gently apply a dip or proprietary fly strike treatment to the affected area and fleece
- 4 Use an antibiotic to control secondary infection.
- 5 Good nursing

Prevention

Clearly the best way of avoiding a sheep being struck is to ensure that effective steps are taken to prevent blue and green bottle flies laying their eggs on the animals. The first line of defence is to make sure that the fleeces are not soiled and that the rear ends are clean and dag free. Secondly use an effective pour on that protects the animal against strikes. With the recent spell of warm weather it is worth considering using a pour on prior to shearing especially if you do not shear until May or later.

The most popular pour on are Vetrazin, Click, and Crovect, but others are available. The difference between each of these products is as follows.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Vetrazin | Provides whole body protection for the sheep and lasts 6 to 8 weeks. Meat withdrawal period 3 days . Does not kill maggots |
| Click | Provides whole body protection for the sheep and lasts 16 weeks. Meat withdrawal period 40 days . Does not kill maggots |

Crovect Only protects the area covered by the spray; does **not** spread over the body of the sheep. Lasts 6 to 8 weeks. Meat **withdrawal period 8 days**. **Does** kill maggots as well as lice, ticks, and headflies

My preference is to use Click after shearing, which is usually in mid-May/early June (depending on the weather) for rams, ewes, and lambs that are being retained, otherwise Vetrazin.

John Flanders

KINGTON FLOCK

The Final Chapter



Kington Chablis



Kington Carnation VI

Two years ago, I was invited to submit an article in the Newsletter featuring my Kington flock and it appeared in the 2008 edition. I ended the piece suggesting that readers should “watch this space”. Well, two years have passed by and I have grown two years older and I now feel that I am no longer able to give my sheep the attention that they deserve. Therefore, I have reluctantly come to the decision that at the end of the forthcoming show season the flock will be offered for sale in its entirety. It is a small flock, just nine breeding ewes, basically tracing back to Alan Lyons’ bloodlines and as many readers will be aware, I have had some significant success at leading shows over the years. Prize winners include Carnation VI and Chablis, as pictured. The show team will hopefully be present at Malvern, Cirencester, and Moreton-in-Marsh this summer and I look forward to meeting friends, old and new, for what will be our “swansong”.

Nick Cater

NEMATODIRASIS

The next Newsletter will include a resume of Davina Stanhope's workshop on worming to be held at Mrs Quinn's on 23rd May, but in the meantime a brief article on nematodirasis may be helpful in view of recent press comments.

The roundworm, *Nematodirus Battus*, lives in the small intestine of lambs and has a single life cycle per year with infection passing from lambs of one year to lambs of the next year. When the weather conditions are suitable the larvae hatch at more or less the same time, and if susceptible lambs are grazing the pasture, rapidly infect them.

The main feature of this disease is a severe blackish scour, and lambs develop a great thirst so are seen drinking from streams or troughs. Many become ill or die within a short space of time. All modern anthelmintics are effective so lambs should be treated immediately; however they recover slowly due to the damage to the gut.

With this in mind the NSA have issued the following warning;

“If you do need to treat lambs then remember that at this stage of the season (i.e. early), when nematodirus is the only worm species causing a threat, a BZ (white) drench is the preferred option, even if you have resistance to this group in other worm species. In lambs at the younger end of the spectrum there may also be a coccidiosis risk and you may also need to treat for this at the same time, particularly if they are in fields with older lambs and/or are on fields that have carried lambs earlier on. Any queries please discuss with your vet.”

John Flanders

ROLL OVER CRATES

If anyone has any experience of roll over crates suitable for Cotswolds could they please let me, John Flanders, know on 01545 590438.

TAIL DOCKING and CASTRATION

There have been a number of reports recently in the national press about sheep owners docking the tails too short and Members are reminded that the requirements for the docking of tails are as follows

- 1 in the case of females the tails must be long enough to cover the vulva,
- 2 in the case of males the tails must be long enough to cover the anus, and
- 3 the procedure should be performed by a competent, trained operator
- 4 the use of a rubber ring or other device is only permitted without an anaesthetic if the lamb is less than 7 days old

As a result of the high level of publicity, it is likely that there will be an increase in the number of inspections by Animal Health particularly at shows.

In terms of castration, it is an offence

- 1 to castrate a lamb which has reached the age of 3 months without the use of an anaesthetic
- 2 only a veterinary surgeon may castrate a lamb which is over 3 months old
- 3 the use of a rubber ring or other device, is only permitted without an anaesthetic if the lamb is less than 7 days old
- 4 the procedure, for lambs under a week old, should be performed by a competent, trained operator

The Society supports the docking of tails on welfare grounds due to the potential of dirty tails and possible fly strike. However, any tail docking **must** be in accordance with the Regulations.

There have been comments recently that all lambs to be either tail docked or castrated must be under an anaesthetic, but so far the Regulations have not been changed to accommodate this proposal.

John Flanders

BLUE TONGUE

This is to remind Members, in conjunction with advice from their vet in respect of timing, to vaccinate against the Blue Tongue virus. Although the disease did not significantly manifest itself last year there is no indication that it will not return. The advice from most reliable sources is to vaccinate against it.

John Flanders

COUNCIL CORNER

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

**** CSS WORKSHOP/DEMONSTRATION DAY – SUNDAY 23 MAY 2010 ****

Mrs Pat Quinn has kindly agreed to hold a workshop/demonstration day at Lower Harford Farm, Naunton GL54 3AG on Sunday 23 May. The proposed programme is as follows:

10.30am – coffee

11.00am – Davina Stanhope : workshop on fly control and worming

12.30 pm– members have their packed lunches

1.30pm – David Jones : workshop on selecting and preparing a fleece

2.30pm – Davina Stanhope : talk on the ‘Dos and Don’ts’ of showing

Council would like to encourage all members to come and bring their friends along to this day which we hope will be both informative and a social get together. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions during the day!

The Society is extremely grateful to David Jones and Davina Stanhope for sharing their expertise with us.

Please return the form enclosed with this newsletter to Lucinda before 17 May if you would like to come. The cost is £5 per adult.

**** THE SOCIETY SHOW – CIRENCESTER, PARK – SUNDAY 4TH JULY
2010 ****

Lynne and Steve Parkes are very kindly organizing the Society Show for us this year. This Show is an important one for us and we would particularly encourage members who have not shown before to come and have a go on 4th July. It is a wonderful way to introduce members to showing in a warm, friendly relaxed atmosphere. The Cirencester Show is a really good country show and it is an excellent opportunity for members, friends and families to come and have a get together at our stand, which will be there on Saturday, as well as on Sunday which is the day of the Society Show. Each member is eligible for one free pass to the show and if you would like one please let Lynne 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 Lynne before 20th June 2010.

**** AGM – SUNDAY 25 JULY 2010 ****

**To be held at
Burghfield House, Bourton On The Water,
(access opposite “Birdland” Only)
on Sunday 25th July 2010**

Steve and Lynne Parkes have kindly arranged for us to visit their flock before the AGM, which will be held in a marquee at Burghfield House in the afternoon.

The proposed programme is as follows:

10.45am	Welcome coffee/tea
11.00am	Flock Visit
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	AGM

More details will be sent with the AGM notice and agenda in June.

**** NSA SHEEP 2010 AT THE THREE COUNTIES SHOWGROUND,
MALVERN, WORCS - TUESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2010****

The Society has a stand at NSA Sheep and so it is important for members to attend and help to promote our breed. Please do put the date into your diary and come and support us. Help is needed to man the stand. Please let Lucinda know if you are happy to help and also if you would like a free pass to the show.

**** THE BREEDS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE SALE, CIRENCESTER – 7TH
AUGUST 2010 ****

This is another important date for your diaries. Please complete and return the enclosed entry form to Voyce Pullin before 2 July 2010.

**** FLOCK COMPETITION ****

The Flock Competition is held every second year, so it will take place again this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to show off your flock, and your knowledge, to the judges, so please do consider entering.

There will be two sections. The **LARGE FLOCK** section will be for flocks with more than 20 ewes of breeding age (shearlings and older). The **SMALL FLOCK** section will be for flocks with 1 – 19 ewes of breeding age.

The judges will arrange to visit your flock sometime in July. They will be looking at, among other things, not only the sheep themselves, but also how you manage your flock, your breeding and marketing strategies, as well as your aims and ambitions for the future.

Pat Quinn and Derek Cross have both kindly agreed to judge the Flock Competition this year. Please do complete and return the enclosed form to Lucinda by 20 June so that the competition can get underway during July/August. Council would like to encourage members to enter this competition as it's a great way to get advice, and chat about your flocks with our judges.

- **Society tags** – Please note that Society tags must be used as well as other identification tags.
- **Rural Enterprise Grants** – Council are currently looking into possible grants from the Rural Enterprise Scheme.
- **CSS polo shirts** – Margaret Pursch has ordered some black polo shirts with our logo on them – please contact Margaret if you would like one – we’re selling them at £19.50 each and we hope that they will help promote our breed particularly at shows. Angela is looking into getting some cards printed using photos from the Photo Competition.
- **Cotswold Woollen Weavers:** Richard Mumford and Margaret Pursch are in discussion with Richard Martin of Cotswold Woollen Weavers to see how we can work together to our mutual advantage.
- **Ilmington Show:** The organisers of Ilmington Show on 30th August are interested in having some Cotswold Sheep in a pen at the show, along with someone to answer questions about them. If you would like to take a couple of sheep yourself, or want more information about the show, please contact - Stephen Wright on 01608 682 605.
- **Old printer cartridges:** Please send Lynne Parkes any old printer cartridges you may have as she can send them off to be recycled in return for valuable funds to the Society.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANIMAL HEALTH and SHOWING WORKSHOP – Sunday 23rd May

Pat Quinn has very kindly offered to host a day, which you really cannot afford to miss.

Animal Health - Davina Stanhope, will hold an essential session on wormers.

Showing – Showing can be hugely satisfying and rewarding in every way. Using Pat's wonderful sheep, you will learn what to look for when selecting your show sheep, and how to prepare, and show them at their very best.

Wool – We hope to organise a session on selecting a prize-winning fleece and on how to prepare it for a show.

To reserve a place and for further details regarding the day please contact Lucinda.

THE SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW - Cirencester Park - Sunday 4th July.

Taking place against the background of the popular Cotswold Show, this is a fantastic day out for anyone interested in Cotswold sheep. For showing novices there will be restricted Ewe Lamb, and Ram Lamb classes - so it really will be the ideal day to start your showing career.

NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION SHOW – Malvern – Tuesday 3rd August

The National Sheep Association is holding their biennial show at which the exhibitors include firms specialising in sheep products as well as other breed societies. Needless to say the Cotswold Sheep Society is having a stand.

SOCIETY BREED SALE – Cirencester - Saturday 7th August

Further information on the annual Society breed sale see Council Corner.

QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 29th October

A Quiz night will be held at Wyck Rissington Village Hall. This will be a great night out, and raise funds for the Society at the same time. Put the date in your diary and look out for more details nearer the time.

THE WINTER SOCIAL – Saturday 27th November

Another date for your diary - after last year's successful evening at The Westwood Centre, in Northleach, we will be returning there again in November.

HOST A FARM WALK

How would you like to show a group of people round your farm and tell them about your flock (large or small)? If so, you could raise much needed funds for the Society! Lunch would be included in the ticket price, and could be provided by you in your barn, or in the local pub, but in either case the tickets would cover the costs. If this is something that appeals to you, please contact Lucinda to discuss the possibilities.

Angela Reid

Sheep For Sale

Angela Reid has some ewes with lambs for sale, For further information contact Angela Reid ... 01865 343133/07768 354613.

You can advertise your sheep for sale here and on the Society website www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk email paul@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk or ring Paul Froehlich o 01926 650098

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

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

Skins

Lamb skins - **Steve Parkes** – 01451 830461
Sheep skins – **Angela Reid** – 01865 343133

Woollen Goods

Knitting wool, body warmers, throws, scarves, cushions - **John Flanders** – 01545 590438; www.hendraveancotswolds.co.uk
Knitting wool – **Edna Powell** – 01453 883646

Miscellaneous

Sticks, crooks – **John Flanders** – 01545 590438
Sewing machine repairs, knitting wool – **Edna Powell** – 01453 883646
Coloured sheep skins – **Angela Reid** – 01865 343133

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)