



# *Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter*

Registered Charity No. 1013326

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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, and Ms. D. Stanhope

**Editors** –Mr. J. Flanders, The Hon. Mrs. A. Reid



*Pat Quinn's sheep being housed*

## **EDITORIAL**

Since the last Newsletter the weather has, to say the least, been interesting and looking after any stock in Arctic conditions is hard work and although I know of one loss through the bad weather, hopefully this is an isolated incident and that members' sheep survived the cold. As it is possible that the cold weather could return, it was felt it would be helpful to reprint the article in last February's Newsletter on keeping sheep in snow. Whilst on the subject of reprinting, the list of lambing equipment, which Steve Parkes kindly provided last year, has been included.

This edition includes a fascinating article by Eric Freeman on his flocks; I say flocks, since he has had two over the years and he was an early member of the Rare Breed Survival Trust. I would also like to add my congratulations to Eric on his Lifetime Achievement Award from FWAG.

There is also a very interesting article, in the form of a New Year Message, by Pat Quinn on her experiences in the 1970's when there were limited blood lines for the Cotswold sheep particularly rams.

It was drawn to my attention that the results in the last Newsletter for the Berkeley Show were incorrect and I apologise to all concerned for the error, which was corrected on the website as soon as it was drawn to my attention. For completeness, the correct results are also shown in this Newsletter.

For a number of reasons, Council have decided that, in future, there will be three Newsletters per year instead of the current four and these will be published in January/February, June/July, and October/November.

I wish you all success in the forthcoming year whether you are lambing or showing, but most importantly, enjoy your sheep.

John Flanders

## **PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE**

I hope 2011 brings you all happiness and success.

As I pondered on what I should write this year I found myself wishing I could announce that Cotswold Sheep were recognised as the up and coming Breed, and that we were flooded with new members. Then I thought, steady on, that is not what we are about. Just look back and be proud of what has been achieved over the last 34 years. When I first registered my flock in the 1977 Combined Flock Book compiled by the RBST there were fifteen other Cotswold Breeders with 100 ewes between them. The figures published in our last Flock Book, (now our own Cotswold Sheep Society publication) showed 107 Flocks with 1532 ewes. But the numbers are only half the story. The turn out of sheep at recent Shows provided us with a chance to see the amazing improvement in the quality of our Breed, and the Flock Competition proves that they are no longer sheep in decline. There is lively interest in "The Cotswold Lion" and discerning people recognise the importance of the breed. Breeders themselves know the pleasure of having them as part of their lives.

During the early days of our modern Society, which Tony Foster played a big part in reviving, there was a shortage of first class rams. This was due to the fact that the major breeders of the past had given up their flocks because of the changing consumerism.

At the first Council meeting I attended, the solution to this problem was still being hotly debated. The outcome was that Libby Henson and I, with my son Michael, and daughter Jane, set off to Canada and USA to look for a Cotswold Ram. The expertise from Libby, who had grown up with Cotswold sheep, was an essential part of the trip. There had been quite an export market to that part of the world in the past, so we had several flocks to visit around the Great Lakes area, and we included Niagara Falls in one of our stops. We did find a ram, but unfortunately the import regulations were so severe we were unable to get him into the UK. After this disappointment, a Premium Ram Scheme was introduced to help improve the breeding situation. As the number of small flocks increased in November 1989 the following appeared in the Newsletter of that date. "It was decided at the AGM that the scheme had served its purpose well. There are so many good quality rams that the scheme has outlived its usefulness." From then on we have made steady progress with

much loyal support. We still need to keep a close eye on the rams we use and avoid any undesirable characteristics.



*Libby Henson with Cotswold Ram – Canada 1980*

So my initial thoughts were foolish. We are not competing with commercial breeds supplying supermarkets. We are here to preserve valuable genes, provide meat for a niche market and promote wool as a useful and desirable product.

Pat Quinn

# **THE VIEW FROM HERE**

**Gloucestershire**

**Judy Wilkie**

Recently the weather has been the topic of conversation. The conditions have been extreme with the lowest a miserable –10C and plenty of snow.

I work on a calf unit attached to a large dairy herd and although there were major problems keeping the calf milk warm enough to feed I am grateful that I no longer milk. The difficulties that arise keeping a large parlour running and defrosting cattle yards are ongoing, and to be driving a milk tanker or an AI van on small rural roads and tracks extremely difficult. The public buying food in supermarkets is unaware of the problems.

The Cotswolds as usual were quite content whatever the weather. Due to a misunderstanding I am short of hay but have been feeding more sugar beet nuts than usual which the ewes enjoy. With the price of hay going through the roof I am grateful to a neighbour for selling me enough to see us through at a sensible price.

This year again I hired a ram, which at present suits my system. Lambing will be very late this year falling in April, which is a totally different experience to lambing in January. The ewes will still lamb in the shed to protect them from the foxes, but will be able to go out promptly unless we have unseasonable weather.

As I write this it is warm and very wet and the ewes are all a muddy brown because they insist on sitting under the hedges in the same places, but now it is warmer and they are not hanging about for hay.

Judy Wilkie

## **West Wales**

### **John Flanders**

The weather certainly has been interesting since the last Newsletter. The cold snap during December and around Christmas caused a few problems particularly in relation to getting feed and water to the stock. The main problem was the water because it froze so quickly; in fact even carrying it out almost resulted in a skin of ice in the bucket. The sheep survived well even though the temperature reached  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the night of Christmas Eve and it was  $-17^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 9 o'clock on the morning of Christmas Day. Snow also presented problem as we had about 12 inches and walking in it was tricky.

When the warm front arrived the 4 acres field, which was drained last year, discharged, in one day, water at the rate of 24,000 gallons it then slowed down to a steady 10,000 gallons per day. If the field had not been drained all that water would have remained or spilled off the land.

Now the weather is mild and the plants seem to think that Spring is close, even the bulbs are beginning to sprout and in a couple of months the garden will need to be tended, fields harrowed, rolled, fertilised, ploughed etc. The question is will we have a dry Summer.

In the meantime there are nearly 50 ewes to lamb a lot of doubles and some triplets. This year we decided to invest in a Shepherdess (I was looking for a long-legged blonde, but the agricultural merchant did not have one in stock!) and hopefully it will make feeding any orphan lambs easier. The exciting time will be in early February when the A.I. ewes lamb and we are looking forward to seeing what quality lambs they produce.

The rebuilding of the barn is now complete and the ewes are safely and happily housed; it is certainly a lot easier having them under cover.

The big bale hay we made in early September is really good and the ewes are enjoying it; it is a shame that we only have 1 bale left from that cut but hopefully the remainder from another field will be of equal quality.

Must away to check my ladies.

John Flanders

## **WINTER SOCIAL**

This year the Winter Social was again held in the Village Hall at Northleach and as usual it was a resounding success. As mentioned last year the choice of venues was inspired in that the wealth of the village in the Middle Ages, reflected through its fine buildings, was built upon the sale of wool from Cotswold sheep to Flemish weavers. The 50 or so people who attended found that there was plenty of room to circulate and talk.

As has become usual the meal followed its well-established pattern with a large array of food provided by members, in fact the amount was overwhelming. After dinner the prizes were awarded as follows:

**Frank Houlton Trophy** – Davina Stanhope

**Society Show Slate** – Norman and Kate Kay

**Shepherd's Crook** – Steve Parkes

**Frank Williams Trophy** – Margaret Pursch and Frances Whiteman

**Flock Competition** – John and Jan Flanders (winners)

The Hon. Angela Reid (runner up)

**Golden Fleece** – Rob Harvey Long

The raffle contributed £221.00 to the Society funds. However, of interest was a rug made by Cotswold Woollen Weavers, which was auctioned by the Society Chairman, Richard Mumford who, once again, demonstrated his skill as an auctioneer. The winning bid, by junior member Ethan Hannis, was £50.00. Also for sale were throws, scarves, cushions, knitting wool, and body warmers made from the Cotswold wool of the Hendra Vein Flock.

The efforts of Lynne Parkes, Margaret Pursch, Frances Whiteman, and Lucinda Foster ensured that the evening was, yet again, a considerable success.

John Flanders

## FRANK WILLIAMS TROPHY

This year Frank Williams trophy was awarded jointly to Margaret Pursch and her sister Frances Whiteman. Although Margaret no longer has sheep she has, over the years, been a stalwart supporter of the Society, not only on Council but also attending numerous functions, events, and manning the Society stand. The success of the Winter Social is in no small way due to the efforts of Margaret and Frances.



*Margaret Pursch and Frances Whiteman being awarded the Frank Williams Trophy at the Winter Social*

The award is well deserved.

John Flanders

## FLOCK COMPETITION

After a break of a year the Flock Competition was again with six members entering. In assessing the flocks the judges had regard to the following headings in their marking system:

**Husbandry/management** – breeding, health plan, feeding, grazing and stocking rates, and aims and ambitions

**Marketing sales and promotions** – pedigree breeding stock, meat lamb or mutton, wool and skins, and showing

**The flock** – to be shown off to their best advantage

The competition enables members to have the whole flock judged and not just individual animals, and as one of this year's entrants, it is informative and enjoyable to show off your sheep to respected members of the Society. The Flock Competition is well worth entering and this year the judges have set out below their notes on the flocks that were entered in the hope that other members will be encouraged to enter in future.

John Flanders

## REPORTS ON FLOCK JUDGING

### 1st VISIT

**Hendra Vean Flock,**

**West Wales**

**John & Jan Flanders**

The first impression was of the meticulous care that is taken over all aspects of the Flock and the tremendous enthusiasm for the Cotswold Breed. We, as Judges for the 2010 Flock competition were gratified that a display of woollen goods had been arranged for us to inspect, a printed explanation of the flock management, and brochure in English and Welsh were given to us. John was at pains to point out that as a newcomer to sheep farming he had been obliged to find out most things the hard way, although he obviously spent sensible time seeking professional advice on most subjects. He had also put in many hours of hard physical work on his farm and livestock. His sheep did him credit. A worthy winner.



## **2nd VISIT**

### **Tingewick Flock, Shropshire**

#### **Davina Stanhope**

As expected from our most successful Show Winner, Davina's Flock was of a very high standard. She relies on shaking buckets to collect her sheep and manages most tasks in the fields. We felt that perhaps some of them did almost too well! Considering Davina has a full time job at Countrywide and has her stock spread over different sites, it is amazing what she manages to achieve. We much appreciate her flying the flag for Cotswold sheep.



## **3rd VISIT**

### **Kespar Flock, Gloucestershire**

#### **Stephen Parkes**

Stephen has built up his Flock by persevering under very difficult circumstances as he relies on renting his fields and lambing premises on different sites. He has achieved a high standard and we liked his ewes and lambs in particular. He takes great interest in different Breeding lines and has much knowledge of the Breed. His contributions to the Society, along with Lynne, is invaluable. After covering several miles between the different groups one had great respect for the work involved, particularly as he has other commitments. We need more people as dedicated as Stephen.



## **4th VISIT**

### **Rissington Flock, Gloucestershire**

#### **Robin Leach**

Robin's flock was the most extensive management we saw. He lambs outside, later than most of us. The sheep were all in excellent condition and he relies on well managed pasture without a lot of extra expense.



The ewe lambs he was keeping as replacements were very nice indeed. He had not retained any ram lambs. Robin has also contributed much to the Society and with his family connection with the famous Cotswold Garne family we hope his enthusiasm will remain.

## **5<sup>th</sup> VISIT**

**Benshill Flock,  
Gloucestershire**

**Thomas Jackson**

Thomas is probably one of our more “professional farmers” and I have always associated him with other breeds, commercial sheep and with “just a few Cotswolds”. I was therefore pleasantly surprised to see a very impressive group of Cotswold ewes with a very nice ram.



He is very particular about any ram lamb he keeps for breeding and he had not retained one for some time. His ewe lambs were difficult to see as they were running with his other sheep but knowing Thomas’s severe standards I doubt they would have had any faults. I was very sad to hear that after all the hard work he has put into the Council owned farm they are putting it on the market. We wish him all the best with his next venture.

## **6<sup>th</sup> VISIT**

**Queenford Flock,  
Oxfordshire**

**Angela Reid**

Angela “ticked all the boxes” correctly to our questions and it was hard to fault the management of her flock. Her sheep were all good to look at and it was clear that they had her undivided attention. She is particular about her breeding programme and aims to always be improving her sheep. We are lucky to have her in the Society and appreciate all that she is contributing.



## **SUMMING UP**

This year we felt that there was not enough difference between the Large and Small Flocks to give two first prizes, particularly as there were only 6 entries. Therefore Eric Freeman who presented the cups agreed that we would award them as first and second.

We were delighted to find that all six Flocks could be considered as potential winners with very nice Cotswold sheep presented to us and little to criticise. However we were in agreement over our final decision and congratulate all the entrants. First prize went to John and Jan Flanders for their Hendra Veau Flock, and second was awarded to Angela Reid for her Queenford Flock. We hope that more people will be encouraged to enter in the future. Our grateful thanks go to Lynne Parkes who did all the chauffeuring.

Pat Quinn

Judge for 2011 assisted by Derek Cross

## **SHOW RESULTS**

Many members compete at local shows and some do very well, but they do not get mentioned in the Newsletter because we are not made aware of their success.

It is the intention to include in future Newsletters a list of members' successes, and we would be very pleased if those of you who compete, even if it is just once in your village show, would let us know, so that recognition can be given to your achievements.

John Flanders

## SHOW DATES FOR 2011

DATES	SHOW	TEL NO	CLOSING DATE	JUDGE	QUALIFYING SHOWS
<b>April</b>					
9th and 10th	Wonderwood	01982 552224			
<b>May</b>					
21st and 22nd	Smallholders Show, Builth Wells			John Flanders is taking some Cotswolds and CSS material for the RBST stand	
<b>June</b>					
17th - 19th	The Three Counties Show	01684 584900	12th April	Robert Boodle	Frank Houlton/Fleece
19th	Rare Breeds & Minority Breeds Day	01684 584900	12th April	Caroline Cunningham	Frank Houlton/Fleece
<b>July</b>					
2nd and 3rd	Cotswold Show, Cirencester Park	01285 652007	15th June	Steve Parkes	Frank Houlton/Fleece
16th	Stroud Show	01453 883646	1st July	Davina Stanhope	Frank Houlton/Fleece
18th - 21st	The Royal Welsh	01982 553683	about 5th May		
<b>August</b>					
6th TBC	Cirencester Show and Sale	01291 680068	about 1st July	Alan Lyons	Frank Houlton
21st	Cotswold Farmers, Andoversford		6th August	Bob Palmer	Frank Houlton
25th	Monmouthshire Show	01291 691160	23rd July		
29th	Berkeley Show	01453 543335	about 10th August	Thomas Jackson	Frank Houlton
29th	Ilmington Show	01608 682605			
<b>September</b>					
3rd	Moreton-in-Marsh Show	01608 651908	13th July	Richard Mumford	Frank Houlton
11th	Frampton Show	01452 740698			

# **THE INTERNATIONAL BACK TO BACKWOOL CHALLENGE'**

**Villars Farm, Meysey Hampton, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 5JU**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

(Please note the new date!)

By the kind invitation of Alison Garne

## **YOUR HELP IS WANTED URGENTLY!**

We hope that this will be a great fundraising day, for not only the Society but also with at least one cancer charity with whom we will be sharing the profits - the challenge was set up in the first place to raise money for cancer charities and it is in the spirit of the event to continue the tradition. The main event will be the 'International Back to Back Wool Challenge', when a team of 8 will hand shear a Cotswold sheep, spin the wool, and knit an adult size jersey in as short a time as possible. So if you are nifty with a pair of hand shears, a fast knitter and/or a keen spinner, we really do need you!!

This will be as high a profile event as we can make it. We will be contacting local radio stations, and press. There will be stalls and a Countryside and Heritage area where demonstrations such as hurdle making, bee keeping, stone walling and, of course, sheep shearing, will take place. There will also be a barbecue, and other refreshments.

If there are any members who would like a trade stand please would they contact Lucinda. The cost will be £15 for a table, and £30 for a commercial stall. Anyone demonstrating a country craft, etc. will not have to pay.

We urgently need helpers on the day for all sorts of tasks, including car parking, refreshments, the barbecue, etc. We also need prizes for the Raffle, and for the Tombola – they can be given to a Council member or Lucinda at the event.

If you have any suggestions for activities, or events, that could also be held on the day please contact Lucinda as soon as possible.

And above all else, please do put the new date in your diary, and come and join us if you possibly can!!!

If you would like to help out in other ways, such as helping to promote the event, finding sponsors, or being another pair of hands on the day, we need you too.

## **THE NOENT FLOCK**

by  
**Eric Freeman**

My first sight of Cotswold sheep was in the late 1940's at Gloucester market when it was situated in the centre of the city. The occasion was the Great Barton Fair which included a large selection of rams of many breeds, chief of which were the Hampshire Down, Dorset Down, and Oxford Down. Others in lesser numbers were Clun Forest, Suffolk, and Ryeland.

The Cotswolds were fewer in number under the perimeter wall with the name GARNE above. They were not produced for sale in the way same as other breeds of course, looking rather straggly and uncoloured compared with most of the others dipped in bloomwash – the bright red of the Stewart Tory Hampshires and the lighter colour of the Randolph Tory Dorsets with their smart pitch marked numbers on each side. My attraction for the underdog drew me to the Cotswolds and it was rather a sad feeling that I had.

This must have been the first signs of “rarebreeditis” in me but little did I know then of what was to follow.

The need to earn a living clouded the issue for a few years, but when my father died suddenly in 1970 the farm needed some attention and I bought my first Gloucester cow in 1971.

The disappearing native breeds were causing some concern to a few thinking people including our own dear Joe Henson.

The Garne Cotswolds had already been dispersed, though Frank Williams was one who bought a few. In 1972 the last small herd of Gloucester cattle was sold due to the owner's age and then “the die was set”. The Cotswold Sheep

Society was reformed as was the Gloucester Cattle Society, and the Rare Breed Survival Trust came into being in 1973. This was the year that I added Cotswold sheep from Frank Williams, and Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs from another die hard farmer, Gordon Cullimore of Berkeley, to the farm. The sheep continued to thrive at home being Flock no. 079, prefix Noent, and they were inspected by Alasdair Dymond in 1976.

In the 1970's I did weigh some individual fleeces and the heaviest fleece recorded in two consecutive years from a yearling ram was 27 1/2 lbs. Both rams were out of the same ewe. The staple length was 17 inches. Ewe fleeces were around 13 lbs, although two fleeces from Cotswold x Suffolk weighed around 20 lbs each and the wool was beautiful.

It was not easy at that time to build a business and follow a passion, but having obtained classes for Gloucesters at the Three Counties Show in 1974, and classes had started for Cotswolds at Moreton in Marsh, I had to do my bit and exhibited at Moreton in 1975 gaining a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was difficult to do it all, so I concentrated on showing the cattle from then on with some success.

By 1980 I was struggling to manage stock and business and decided to sell the flock, also the rams were not helpful to my injured back!! Our Richard Mumford of Griffiths Auctioneers in Evesham organised a joint sale of my sheep and cattle with another herd of Gloucester Old Spot pigs at Apperley near Tewkesbury.

The whole sale was successful with good interest in the sheep and Pat Quinn and John Lightbown were among the buyers.

This I thought was the end of the Cotswolds for me, but it was not to be. I kept a watching interest in the breed, meeting old colleagues at shows and sustaining friendships. The old breeders thinned out with the passing years until Pat Quinn asked me if I would take a closer interest again. This I did, but felt I needed to own some sheep. Pat had bought the best pen of ewes at my sale in 1980 and in her meticulous way could trace some direct descendants in her flock at Naunton. Some of them were penned for me to choose from and, as I like continuity, I returned home pleased with what we had done.

After some time on Council I was honoured to become President for several years stepping down to become Vice President afterwards and I hope my

contribution was worthwhile to the Society.

Two special memories for me were first the day I was visited in 1980 by very special “Cotswold people” to inspect the flock prior to the sale, they were Billy Garne, Frank Houlton, Doug Brain, Tony Foster, and Joe Henson – names associated with the rebirth of the Cotswold Sheep Society.

My second special day was my visit to Bill Garne, the Life President. On being appointed President I asked Alison, his daughter, if I might visit Billy at Maisey Hampton, which I did, and spent a happy couple of hours there.



*Eric Freeman and Billy Garne*

I am sure present day breeders and members feel as I do that we are custodians of a breed, which has grown out of the soil of this wonderful county and contributed much to the history of England.

Eric Freeman

## **COTSWOLDS BACK IN ‘AT RISK’ CATEGORY**

The number of ewe lambs registered last year are substantially less than were registered in 2009. The RBST estimate the number of sheep of any breed using a formula based on the number of ewe lambs registered each year, combined with information from the annual Breed Census and the online Flock Book (do remember to register any sheep deaths, either by doing it yourself online, or by contacting Lynne). The unfortunate result of this drop in numbers is that Cotswolds will shortly be returned from the ‘Minority Breed’ category to the ‘At Risk’ category on the RBST Watchlist.

The reduction in registrations will be due to a combination of factors: people move away from their farms or smallholdings; they become ill; or they may just no longer have time for their sheep. Sometimes it is a commercial decision. One of the largest flocks of Cotswolds which has been lost belonged to Holt Farms Ltd. Sadly they have found their Cotswold flock hard to manage whilst maintaining their organic status. Consequently they took the decision to sell, or cull, the greater part of their flock (in 2010 the Flock Book shows they had 106 breeding ewes), and are no longer members of the Society. They assure me however, that they have retained 28 ewes, any progeny of which, unfortunately, will not now be registered. Regarding any registered sheep they did sell, it is to be hoped that some of the new owners may become members of the Society in the future.

It all goes to prove that there is no room for complacency. Cotswolds are not safe. With currently only 1450 registered breeding ewes in the entire country, an outbreak of a disease such as Foot and Mouth, particularly in the Cotswolds, could obviously devastate the breed and its bloodlines. It is therefore essential to remember just how vital every member of the Society is, whether a flock keeper, or an enthusiastic supporter of events - the responsibility for ensuring the future of Cotswold sheep lies in our hands.

Angela Reid

*(This flock reduction, including progeny not being registered, represents a loss of about 7% of the registered breeding flock – Ed.)*

# PHOTOSENSITISATION

## Introduction and Causes

Photosensitisation is caused by the action of sunlight on the skin when certain photodynamic chemicals are present in the bloodstream and more energy is absorbed from the sun's rays than is normal resulting in damage to the skin, particularly the non-woolly areas, and especially if the skin is white.

It can occur if the animal has eaten a plant, which interferes with the excretion of photodynamic substances in the body normally rendered harmless by the liver. The fattening of lambs on kale, rape, and other brassicas, can cause photosensitisation as well as temporary blindness and anaemia; this is particularly so if the animals have been fattened for a prolonged period.

## Symptoms

Typical cases of ovine photosensitisation occur in white-faced breeds. Initially, affected animals are dull and attempt to seek shade. Lambs are often separated from their dam. The ears in particular are affected and become swollen, oedematous and droopy; the face, eyelids, lips and lower limbs may also become oedematous. There is frequent head shaking and there is often self-trauma to the head by rubbing against fence posts or kicking at the head with hind feet. Affected skin may ooze serum, with development of superficial secondary bacterial infection. Necrosis of the ear tips develops within a few days, which gives them a "curled up" appearance.

## Treatment

Severely affected sheep may die if neglected but the response to protection from sunlight and appropriate medication is generally good. In most cases the skin overlying the affected areas dries and cracks and the ears may be lost.

Affected sheep must be removed from pasture and confined to dark buildings to prevent further exposure. **It is essential to consult your vet so that the appropriate drugs can be given.**

## Prevention/Control Measures

Primary photosensitisation occurs sporadically and the cause is often not

determined. It would however be prudent to avoid those pastures where outbreaks have occurred in previous years.

John Flanders

## **COTSWOLD SHEEP TRADE MARKS**

How many of you know that the Society owns 2 registered trademarks?

The Society has owned trademarks for both meat and wool since 2001 and is currently renewing them for the benefit of members.

In the past a number of members have sold both meat and wool under these trademarks and there are currently 3 members using the wool trademark and 1 using the meat trademark.

Our meat trademark for “Pedigree Cotswold Lamb” is designed to help identify lamb from the Cotswold breed of sheep rather than lamb reared on the Cotswold hills. Both the parents must be pedigree registered Cotswold Sheep and we supply the forms for you to fill in to identify the lambs and prove their origin.

If you are selling to the local pub, butcher or are using a box scheme and want to enable your customers to identify your lamb as being from Cotswold sheep you could register to use the Society trademark. It involves a couple of signatures and the payment of a £10 initial licence fee for the first year with an annual £5 renewal if you are the producer or a £1 if you are a butcher or processor.

Similarly, if you sell Cotswold wool or wool products you can register to use the wool trademark, costs of which are the same as for meat.

If you would just like to discuss if the trademark could be of some use to you when selling your Cotswold meat or wool please feel free to ring me on 01285 760544 to discuss it. Evenings are best or leave your number on the answerphone and I will ring you back.

Thomas Jackson

## **LOOKING AFTER SHEEP IN SNOW**

Following the recent poor weather it was felt helpful, particularly for new members, if the article on keeping sheep in snow was reproduced again. Hopefully the cold spell will not be repeated, but, such are the vagaries of the British climate, that one never knows. It should be stressed that this article is based on my own experience and if there is any doubt seek the advice of someone experienced in animal husbandry.

The fundamental rule is that all animals need feeding and watering irrespective of the weather conditions; whilst it can be argued that, on the hills, animals have to forage for themselves a responsible shepherd will do his utmost to protect/help his sheep.

Ideally some protection in the form of a field shelter would be beneficial, but that is really only practical if the flock is small; alternatively move the animals closer to a shed/barn so that they can gain access easily.

Any inside animals should be fed and watered in the usual way. It is important not to subject pregnant ewes to a sudden change in diet or activity because of the cold weather otherwise there is a greater propensity for twin lamb disease to occur.

As far as the outside animals are concerned, they are fed their usual concentrate rations, but if the grass is obscured, hay/haylage/silage should also be made available.

Water is always a problem because it freezes and, to ensure the animals have adequate fresh water, each time they are fed the ice should be removed and the drinkers replenished with clean water.

John Flanders

## PRE LAMBING LIST

This list is intended to serve as a reminder of the equipment that may be needed at lambing time

**Prolapse harness** – just in case

**Powdered colostrum** – if ewe has none of her own

**Powdered ewe milk** – some lambs may need topping up

**Stomach tubing equipment** – Use it or lose them

**Antibiotic** – long acting

**Dry cow tubes** – for drying off the ewe in the event of the only lamb dying

**Calcium boroglucomate** – in the event of twin lamb disease

**Liquid tonic supplement**

**New teats and feeding bottles** for topping up odd lambs

**Castration rings & pliers**

**Vet strength iodine** for dressing navels

**Pliers and some form of ear tag** so lambs can be identified until electronic tags are applied

**Spray markers** for numbering ewes and lambs

**Latex gloves** – useful for cleaning the rear end of lambs

**Water & feed buckets** for lambing pens

**Troughs** for lambing/ nursery pen

**Spare light bulbs (inc. bulbs for heat lamp) and torch batteries**

**Needles & syringes**

**Lambing ropes**

**Old towels** – for drying lambs

To discuss any of the above or any other knotty issue, please ring (01451 830461) anytime to have a chat

Steve Parkes

## **COTSWOLDS ON TELEVISION**

Members may be interested to know that Pat Quinn's ewes were filmed recently for a television cookery programme, however as she did not have any butcher lambs the cookery part was filmed at Martin's Meats. The programme is to be shown on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm and repeated on 2<sup>nd</sup> March during the daytime on The Good Food Channel (Sky 249 / Virgin 260).

John Flanders

## **OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

Members are reminded that old printer cartridges, except those for Epson printers, 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.

John Flanders

## **ERIC FREEMAN Lifetime Achievement Award**

In 2010 Gloucestershire FWAG and FACE decided to create a special award in recognition of the long-term commitment Eric Freeman has shown in passing on his passion for farming traditions and rural life to people of all ages and walks of life.

For many years Eric has been raising the profile of farming and the countryside and he has been involved in many educational and public events including the Young Farmers, the Three Counties Show, Gloucester Cattle Society, and Radio Gloucester as well as holding school visits, wassailing, and harvest home events. FWAG and FACE felt his engagement with many different groups to explain the various elements of farming, the environment, and food production, deserved recognition in the form of a Lifetime Award. In

recognition of this he was presented with a local variety apple tree, “Ashmead’s Kernel” and a tree plaque with the following words: “With appreciation to Eric Freeman, in recognition of the longstanding contribution and passion you have shown in educating people about the history of farming and the traditions of the country life”.



*Eric Freeman receiving his award*

I am sure members will agree that this award is justly deserved.

John Flanders

## **BERKELEY SHOW**

(revised results)

### **SHEEP CLASSES**

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

30<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Judge: Mr R Mumford

#### **Senior Ram (3 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Ms D Stanhope

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay

#### **Shearling Ram (4 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Mr and Mrs N Kay

2<sup>nd</sup> Ms D Stanhope

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr S Parkes

3<sup>rd</sup> Ms D Stanhope

**Ram Lamb** (3 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Ms D Stanhope

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr S Parkes

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr and Mrs N Kay

**Senior Ewe** (5 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Ms D Stanhope

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr and Mrs N Kay

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr S Parkes

**Shearling Ewe** (4 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Ms D Stanhope

2<sup>nd</sup> Ms D Stanhope

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr and Mrs N Kay

**Ewe Lamb** (2 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Ms D Stanhope

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr S Parkes

**Champion:** Ms D Stanhope – Shearling Ram – C8927 Tingewick Otis

**Reserve Champion:** Mr and Mrs N Kay – Shearling Ram – C11195 - Middlewick Celenborn

**ACORN PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY**

Ms D Stanhope – Shearling Ram – C8927 Tingewick Otis

## **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:

**\*\* IMPORTANT DATE FOR THE DIARY \*\***

### **INTERNATIONAL BACK TO BACK WOOL CHALLENGE**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011**

**AT VILLARS FARM, MEYSEY HAMPTON**

**By kind permission of Alison Garne**

Full details provided within this newsletter.

**\*\* IMPORTANT DATE FOR THE DIARY \*\***

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011**

Venue to be confirmed

Please let Lucinda know if you would be happy to host the AGM this year perhaps combining it with a flock walk, which was popular last year.

### **CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTO COMPETITION 2011 'Cotswolds in Snow'**

Following on from the successful sale of our Christmas cards last year, Council are organising another Photo Competition to find a photograph to use on this

year's Christmas card. Please look out all your "wintery" Cotswold sheep photos and email them to Angela Reid [amreid343@msn.com](mailto:amreid343@msn.com) before 28<sup>th</sup> March, alternatively post them to Queenford Farm, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7PH. Please make sure you include your contact details.

The best photos will then be displayed at the 'International Back to Back Wool Challenge' in May. The winner will be chosen by Council, and used for the 2011 Christmas cards.

Please note that jpeg photographs usually produce the clearest pictures. The full Rules of the Competition can be found on [www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk), or contact Angela Reid on 01865 343133 to request a copy to be sent to you.

- **Website:** The new website is now up and running ([www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk)). It is very important that members use the website and let Angela Reid know of any difficulties they have, or if they have any suggestions as to any refinements or additions they would like to see if possible.
- **Email addresses:** If you are not currently receiving CSS emails from Lucinda and would like to, please do let her have your email addresses ([lucindafoster13@btinternet.com](mailto:lucindafoster13@btinternet.com)). Please note her new email address. This is the best way to keep you regularly updated on Society information and events.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

If anyone has any sheep photographs that would be suitable for publication in the Newsletter, please let me know and we will do our best to publish them.

John Flanders

## LAMBING LIVE (well, almost)



Lambing in action



Mum might still have her afterbirth but, I'm the Milky Bar Kid

## **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](http://www.conygreefarm.co.uk)

### **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**

Sticks, crooks – **John Flanders** – 01545 590438

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

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

### **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. Unless stated otherwise all sheep advertised for sale are pedigree Cotswolds.

If you wish to advertise in the next Newsletter, please contact me by 19th May.

### **FOR SALE:**

Would members please supply details of sheep that are for sale.

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

Tel: 07768 354613.

HAS FOR SALE 6 ewe lambs from her prizewinning QUEENFORD flock, born Feb/March 2010.

**Mrs. Elaine Jewell**, St Augustine's Farm, Arlingham, Gloucester GL2 7JN

Tel.: 01285 760544

HAS FOR SALE 4 ewes.

**Mrs. P. Quainton**, St. Christopher's Lodge, Wantage Road, Lambourn, Hungerford RG17 8UE.

Tel: 01488 73622

HAS FOR SALE 1 ewe

### **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.

**Mr Jon Shaw**, Clapsgate House, Arlingham, Gloucestershire  
Tel 01452 740597  
HAS A RAM for hire

### **SHEEP RELATED EQUIPMENT**

Mr John Flanders, Glyn Yr Eryr, Talgarreg, Llandysul, Ceredigion  
Tel. 01545 590438  
E-mail [info@hendraveancotswolds.co.uk](mailto:info@hendraveancotswolds.co.uk)  
HAS FOR SALE a foot bath, a round bale cradle, and a heat lamp