



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

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Council Officers

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Mr. D. Cross, Mr. S. Parkes, Ms. D. Stanhope

Editors

John Flanders, The Hon. Mrs. Angela Reid



Cartoon by Chipping Campden School students

EDITORIAL

John Flanders

As I write this Winter has finally arrived and the snow has started falling albeit only lightly. The weather has really been quite warm for the time of year and Judy Wilkie is right by commenting that mild weather brings with it other problems.

With the new awards for young handlers, the Newsletter will in future include a section devoted solely to articles by young handlers. Would any young handlers please contact me by post (Glyn Yr Eryr, Talgarreg, Llandysul, Ceredigion, SA44 4HB), or by phone (01545 590438), or by e-mail (info@hendraveancotswolds.co.uk) with articles, photos etc. To start the ball rolling there are photos and an article from Chipping Campden School.

In a similar vein, if any other members have the urge to put pen to paper please do so particularly as I am trying to have four contributors from different parts of the country for "The View From Here" section.

Fiona McMahona has written a fascinating piece about her flock and the move to Devon, while Kate Elliott has explained the differences between the Cotswolds and the Leicester Longwools.

Richard Broad's article raises the issue of showing longwool sheep and I wonder if the lack of entries at early shows, for example in May, is because the organisers want the sheep in full wool; whereas later in the Summer, when most of the shows are held, the sheep do not have to be in full wool and could be clipped around April time.

This year a number of events have been arranged for members including a visit to Davina Stanhope in June; Colesbourne Park for the AGM in August; and an informative social evening at the Cotswold Woollen Weavers in September. Full details are to be found in the Newsletter.

For those of you who show your sheep good luck, and for others who do not show you may wish to enter the 2012 Flock Competition, details of which are enclosed in this Newsletter.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Boodle

Winchcombe is a wool town!

It has never laid claim to being one of the major towns like Northleach and Cirencester. This year that could change as a celebration of “Wool in Winchcombe” will take place between the 14th April and 5th May.

Winchcombe is a Saxon town which briefly became a county town in 1007, only to be surpassed by Gloucester 10 years later. There were two abbeys, one here at Winchcombe and one at neighbouring Hailes; both of them enormous, owning vast tracts of land and many tens of thousands of sheep.

After the abbeys were dissolved in 1539 Winchcombe settled down to be a market town dominated by poverty and neglect. A short lived attempt to grow tobacco was cut short by the excise men so that the colonies could go on making a fortune from their own export of tobacco.

Another short lived attempt at spinning silk – we still have Silk Mill Lane – next to the River Insbourne, fizzled out.

So we are celebrating Wool in Winchcombe. I will be doing my best to promote the Cotswold and its woollen products, together with a live sheep or two and some of our publicity boards.

Now here is a word to conjure with tuer, an almost forgotten word just remembered by a few estate workers on the Stanway estate.

Before the Enclosure Acts the Cotswold Hills were home to many thousands of sheep and one of the greatest problems was access to water. There were a certain amount of dew ponds, but these were limited. Below the escarpment were springs that eventually flowed on down to the River Isbourne. In order to water the flocks of sheep, and to prevent them getting mixed up, stone walls were built leading down to stone troughs, wide at the top and getting narrower at they reached the springs. By building more walls up to three flocks could have access to the spring water, without getting mixed up. These access points were known as tuers and with the help of DEFRA and English Heritage some of these tuers have been rebuilt and areas opened up for walkers and historians.

The great flocks that the abbeys owned would have been managed in this way. A large percentage of their flocks would have been wethers – the main wool producers – whose need for access to water would not have been so great as ewes with lambs.

So Winchcombe is reinventing itself. We are a centre for walkers, we have a music and art festival and now a grand wool event. It's all quite exciting.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

Gloucestershire

Judy Wilkie

This time last year we had endured extreme weather with temperatures down to minus 10 but in contrast recently we have had mild wet weather and the grass has continued to grow. There is a down side as the feed value is lower this time of year and it is very easy to end up with damaged pasture

Once again I am feeding hay out of a wheeled rack, which stands on some eighteen inch slabs in a gateway area on a hard track. The big bale is put the other side of the gate and the rack is filled daily as needed. My bales are delivered over our boundary by my neighbour as they are kept in his barn, which has made it so easy to deal with as we just roll them onto two pallets. It is a bit more work doing it like that compared to letting them help themselves through a grid against the bale but wastage is minimal. Cake is fed in the troughs either side and with only ten ewes it works well.

Last week a ewe had to be euthanized by the vet as she was obviously going downhill fast. She had her ear removed by the vet a year ago and she produced and reared a nice ewe lamb . I do try not to keep old ewes on too long but as in her case she was not going to market so another cost was inevitable. Here we also have to take our fallen stock to hunt kennels some distance away as our nearest does not have facilities for sheep. This problem disposing of fallen stock continues to be a costly and time consuming problem for us all.

West Wales

John Flanders

Around Christmas time I was wondering what I was going to write in this

column because everything had been very uneventful, even the weather had been monotonously boring, but as it happened it was a foolish thing to do and I am glad to see the back of January.

The down side was that a ewe decided to break her leg, how she did it I have no idea, but thankfully the joint seems to be reasonably good enough not to warrant a lead injection. If that was not bad enough, a ewe that had been crossed with a Charmoise aborted due to toxoplasmosis – this is spread by cats, and unfortunately I was unable to vaccinate against it last year owing to no vaccine being available.

However, on the upside, the shearling ram that went walkabout with a neighbour's Lleyn ewe is the proud father of twin boys, both duly showing strong Cotswold characteristics. It will be interesting to see how they develop and how quick they grow. The mother is particularly proud of her offspring and with such quality breeding on the sire's side, she should be proud.

The ewes have been housed for a couple of weeks in readiness for lambing. Until early February, the weather here had been wet (that really is an understatement), and it was a relief to have a window of opportunity to get the ewes under cover.

As is well known I have a 1955 Fordson Major and 1964 Fordson Super Major as farm tractors and for the past 7 years I have been looking for a front end loader for either of them. In December, like London buses, two were available at the same time. What to do and which to have? There was only one solution as far as I was concerned and that was to buy them both, particularly as they were offered at the same low price. I am now the proud owner of two front end loaders. With one of the front end loaders came a Perry Loader for lifting bales, then all I needed was a bale sledge to put behind the baler, and Vernon Morris very kindly gave me one - as Jan said "boys and their toys". Will we get fine weather to use all this equipment – who knows!

The last of the 2011 fat/store lambs were sold in early February and I was fairly pleased with the prices, but like everyone would have preferred more; at least it was better than a few years ago.

(Note : Lead injection = shot)

LYDFORD STATION FLOCK

Fiona McMahon

It all started back in 2004. We were looking for some grazing for our horses and ponies and found a plot of 36 acres available for a very good price. We moved our equines in along with two belonging to some friends, Emma and Foz.

Once we moved the horses in we realised that there was far too much grass for them to keep down and so decided sheep may be a good idea. Now, Emma is a spinner and knitter so we left the decision of which kind of sheep up to her. Also Emma knew the different breeds of sheep better than we did. As the fields were in Purton, in the south of the Cotswolds, Emma suggested we get some Cotswold Lions. This sounded good to us.

We went home and investigated them on the web. They seemed like a marvellous breed to have. The docile temperament was particularly appealing to us, but the magnificent fleece was what appealed most to Emma.

From the internet we were able to obtain contact details for Nick Cordery, a local Cotswold breeder well known to you, dear reader. We arranged to meet him with the intention of buying 6 shearling ewes.

On arrival at Nick's we were taken to a field in which there was a pen with about 40 sheep for us to look at. Being naïve we were drawn to a poorly looking one which we wanted to take home and nurse but Nick pointed out that he would NOT let us have those as they were not good examples of the breed, and that the poor examples were the ones which went for meat. We had not thought this through but had to agree it was the best way. We picked out 6 good looking shearling ewes and paid for them.

We picked the ewes up soon after and took them to their new home at Purton. There they had access to 36 acres of good quality grass. They took no notice of our electric horse fencing, but they never strayed into the neighbour's fields.

Nick supplied us with a ram in the autumn to run with our sheep. He was a Hendra Veian ram of good quality. He also had a very docile manner. He soon got to work and fitted in with our routine very quickly.

We stabled the ewes after Christmas to await the lambs and got into a routine of checking them late at night and early in the morning as we didn't live on the site. One day we got to the stables and found the group of ewes surrounding a little lamb. None of them admitted ownership of the lamb but on checking backsides we found mum and put them in a separate stable to settle and get to know each other. The rest of the lambing went quite uneventfully if a little drawn out. We soon had a lovely small flock with the lambs gambolling about in all the lush grass.

Eventually we moved from Purton to Wanborough and rented a couple of small paddocks which were ideal for the horses and the sheep and the chickens which we had also acquired. Emma and Foz moved their horses to Vowley Farm near Wootton Bassett.

There was a lovely old stone barn by one of the paddocks we rented and this was ideal for lambing the following winter. Again we took it in turns to check them. Emma and Foz did the late night check and we did the early morning check. Lambing that year was a little more eventful but we soon had some lovely lambs bouncing about. Our flock was starting to grow.

At this point Emma and Foz had settled into Vowley Farm and decided that they would like to have their half of the flock at the farm with the horses. So we split up the flock and Emma and Foz moved their half to Vowley.

We managed to rent several paddocks the following summer for the horses and sheep and all seemed well.

Gradually though the paddocks we were renting were being sold for building land. This and the fact that we were travelling from field to field (a 15 mile round trip) twice a day made us decide that we needed to look for somewhere that we could keep all the animals in one place. At the same time my mother decided she would like to move to Devon or Cornwall as my sister was already down that way. We started to look for small farms for sale or houses with land nearby and also land on its own. My mum bought a house in Princetown, right in the middle of Dartmoor from where she was able to get to see land as soon as it came on the market. She went to look at one plot, an old railway station, and there was another viewer there with her. This other lady said she wouldn't put her horses out on the land as it was very scrubby. So my mum thought we wouldn't be interested. There were 9 stables, a barn and an indoor riding arena so we thought it would be worth a trip down to view it.

Once we saw the place we fell in love at first sight. It has a lovely feel and a

lot of history and even if the grass isn't best quality everything else makes up for it. It was for sale with sealed bids so as a family we decided to try to buy it. We put in our bid and luckily won and the land was ours.

The old owners were very kind and allowed us to move our bits and pieces in even before we had finalised the sale. We made the journey from Swindon to Lydford every weekend for 5 weeks on the trot with a lorry full of animal accoutrements. On the day we moved the animals we hired a professional animal transporter who took the horses and chickens and we moved the sheep in our old horse lorry. And off we went.

It was great being able to check all of our animals without having to drive between fields. The property is just on the edge of Dartmoor so we can ride out on our horses without having to go on the road. And the sheep loved all the rough grazing and brambles, etc.

It was a great move that we made and we have been here now since 2007 and wouldn't move back. The sheep are settled and our flock is growing.

TOXOPLASMOSIS

John Flanders

Toxoplasmosis is the second most common cause of abortions in ewes, the other being enzootic, but that is about all they have in common apart from the financial loss.

The Cause

The cause of toxoplasmosis is a protozoan parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*, which is related to the organism which causes coccidiosis in lambs. The organism infects the placenta, where it interferes with the passage of nutrients and oxygen to the foetus; the infection also gains access to the foetus itself.

The Disease

The source of infection for sheep, and any other animals including man, is the domestic cat. When a non-immune cat ingests an infected mouse/rat it develops toxoplasmosis in its gut and about a week after infection the cat commences to pass literally millions of oocysts (eggs) in its faeces. This stage lasts about a week and the cat becomes immune. It is the oocysts in the cat faeces, which infect sheep and man.

Infection in early pregnancy can lead to foetal re-absorption and apparent barrenness, whilst in mid pregnancy foetal death can occur. In late pregnancy it can lead to the birth of a weak lamb, or practically no ill-effects at all.

A characteristic feature of a toxoplasmosis abortion is that the dead foetus is liver coloured.

Flock Protection

Ewes which have been infected are generally immune for life, and therefore should pose no future problem. However any replacement ewes, either bred by yourself, or bought in, will need protection and the use of the recently introduced vaccine should be considered.

Author's Comment

It is essential that **for any abortion the advice of a vet is sought**. It is also essential that any woman who is, or who might possibly be, pregnant should avoid contact not only with sheep at lambing time, but also with any clothing or equipment which might possibly have been in contact with the sheep.

SHOWING LONGWOOL SHEEP

Richard Broad of RBST

One of the greatest enjoyments of being the RBST Field Officer is that I attend a large number of shows, and Shows and Sales. Over the whole of 2011 I have been to shows in Cornwall, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Shropshire and many other places. One thing that is similar to all the shows is the small number of Longwool sheep being shown in relation to all the other breeds especially the great falling off of Greyface Dartmoors and the ever increasing numbers of Primitives seen at the shows.

Most shows now seem to make do with general Longwool classes for all comers, and even the Royal Norfolk had a general Longwool class this year. A show I hold dear to my heart is the Smallholders Show held each May in Biulth Wells. On the RBST stand last year we had John and Jan Flanders' Cotswolds but these were the only Longwool sheep at the show I believe.

I am on the Committee for the now re-named Royal Welsh Spring Festival and 2012 will be the last year it will offer LONGWOOL classes if entries do not increase. In 2011 there was two exhibitors of Boreray sheep, the rarest of

our sheep breeds so surely we must have some show exhibitors (old or new) who can maintain the Longwool classes at a premier show with 20,000 plus people attending over the two days and all potential keepers of sheep and maybe Cotswolds!

Rhian from the RWAS is happy to send out schedules for the Spring Festival and can be contacted on 01982 554408 or by e mail rhian@rwas.co.uk

(There are four show classes namely ram over 2 years; shearling ram; ewe over 2 years; and shearling ewe. The sheep are to be shown in full wool. Ed.)



Poser!!

COTSWOLDS v LEICESTER LONGWOOLS

Kate Elliott

I was asked at the Winter Social if I could put into words the difference between Cotswolds and Leicesters. Having, like Davina, worked with both, I was probably in a better position than most to do so.

Before I start, I must enter a caveat – I have never worked with white Leicesters, but only with black ones, and, as anybody familiar with coloured sheep knows, they are not exactly the same. The coloured versions of whatever pure breed are slightly smaller – or at least more streamlined –

than their white counterparts, and they carry less body fat – whether the second is the sole reason for the first or not, I don't know.

If you see a Cotswold fed up for show and a Leicester fed up for show in the show ring, pretty much all you have got to tell them apart is the tag. I've had to rely on those occasionally. But, as one who doesn't approve of feeding up, as it distorts the breed, I will discuss only non-show animals.

The Cotswold is a bigger sheep than the Leicester, not necessarily in height, but the body is bigger and deeper. The Leicester has longer legs. As a guide, our biggest Leicester ram weighed in at 24 stone (152kg) and his Cotswold equivalent at 26 stone (165kg). The Leicester is described as an active sheep and, if my current two young ladies are anything to go by, that means it can jump stock fencing plus two rows of barbed wire with ease. I've never met a Cotswold that even tried to do that.

The head on the Leicester is narrower than that on the Cotswold or the Lincoln, and looks finer and longer as a result, and the ears tend to be carried a little higher than Cotswold ears. Leicester faces don't have the short frizzy locks round them that Cotswolds can have.

But the real difference is in the wool. Leicesters get brambled for fun, while (perhaps I was just lucky?) my Cotswolds never did. The fleece on the Leicester is longer, averaging about 15 inches on a shearling, and up to about 8-10 inches on a shorn ewe. Not only is the staple construction different – the Cotswold should have wide (up to 2") flat staples, while the Leicester has round ones – but there is a finer wave in the Leicester. The Cotswold fleece is quite hairy, giving it a halo effect when spun, but the Leicester fleece is quite different – it is very smooth and silky.

THE WINTER SOCIAL

Angela Reid

The Winter Social was held on 26th November in Condicote Village Hall. It was a great pleasure to see so many members enjoying an excellent evening. The Society was also very pleased to welcome, as our guests, members of the Oxfordshire Guild of Spinners and Weavers, who had, along with Kate Elliot, so nobly spun and knitted for our attempt at the 'International Back to Back Wool Challenge'.

As always the buffet table groaned beneath the weight of delicious dishes

brought by the members, while Richard Mumford and Robert Boodle wielded their carving knives with their usual skill. After dinner the raffle took place, and a huge 'thank you' must go to the many members who had so kindly donated prizes. A high spot of the evening was the auction of the 'Back to



Margaret Pursch with the "Back to Back" jumper

Back' jumper. It sparked some lively bidding, but thanks to the generosity of Margaret Pursch, the jumper will remain in the Society and will be displayed on the Society stand at future shows.

An important part of the evening was, of course, the presentation of the trophies. The prizes won were:

The Champion Flock Slate - (for scoring the most points at the Society Show, Cirencester) went to Miss Davina Stanhope for her Tingewick Flock.

The Crook - donated by Mr and Mrs John Flanders and Mr and Mrs Nick Cordery (for the Best Home Bred Sheep at the Society Show, Cirencester) went to Mr Steve Parkes for his Senior Ram, Kespar Finn.

The Frank Holton Trophy

The Frank Holton Trophy is awarded to the member who scores the most points over eight shows - The Three Counties; The Native & Rare Breeds Show, Malvern; The Cotswold Sheep Society Show, Cirencester; Stroud Show; Berkeley Show; The Society Show and

Sale, Cirencester; Cotswold Hunt and Farmers Show; and Moreton in Marsh Show.

1st - Miss D. Stanhope,

2nd - Mr S Parkes,

3rd - Mr D Cross

The Golden Fleece

The Golden Fleece is awarded to the member whose fleeces win the most points over four shows. These are The Three Counties; The Native & Rare Breeds Show, Malvern; The Society Show, Cirencester; and Stroud Show.

1st - Mr R. Harvey Long,

2nd - Miss D Stanhope,

3rd - Mr D Cross.

The Frank Williams Trophy

The Frank Williams Trophy is awarded for outstanding service to the Society. Members nominate someone who in their view fulfil this criteria and the winner is decided by Council. This year Davina Stanhope received the trophy for her unceasing efforts in promoting the breed and its commercial possibilities, as well as for consistently setting the standard in the show ring with her outstanding sheep.

There followed a showing of the wonderful video of the AGM, which has been so generously commissioned by Pat Quinn. This video should soon be accessible via our website. We also had an opportunity to see the 'Back to Back' episode of *Countryfile*, and it was lovely that Joe Henson, who had featured on the programme, was there to watch it with us.

It was altogether a most memorable evening, and our thanks must go to all those who worked so hard to make it such a success. Of particular importance were Margaret Pursch and Frances Whiteman who made endless shopping trips, set up the hall and undertook overall organisation of what was such an enjoyable event. The Society is also very grateful to Robert Boodle for decorating the hall as well as providing, and setting up, all the signs for the event.

LAMBING LIST & HYGIENE

This list is intended to serve as a reminder of the equipment that may be needed at lambing time and it is particularly aimed at those new members

who have not kept sheep before.

Equipment

- 1 Prolapse harness – just in case
- 2 Powdered Colostrum – if ewe has none of her own
- 3 Powdered Ewe Milk – Some lambs may need topping up
- 4 Stomach tubing equipment – Use it or lose them
- 5 Antibiotic – long acting
- 6 Dry cow tubes – for drying off the ewe in the event of the only lamb dying
- 7 Calcium boroglucomate – in the event of twin lamb disease
- 8 Liquid tonic supplement
- 9 New teats and feeding bottles for topping up odd lambs
- 10 Castration rings & pliers
- 11 Vet strength iodine for dressing navels
- 12 Pliers and some form of ear tag so lambs can be identified until electronic tags are applied
- 13 Spray markers for numbering ewes and lambs
- 14 Latex gloves – useful for cleaning the rear end of lambs
- 15 Water buckets for lambing pens
- 16 Troughs for lambing/ nursery pen
- 17 Spare light bulbs and torch batteries

Hygiene checklist

- 1 Thoroughly disinfect all accommodation before the start of lambing, pressure washing the sides and floors of the pens with a good quality detergent before spraying them with a broad spectrum disinfectant.
- 2 Isolate sick ewes and lambs in specially prepared pens well away from the healthy flock and tend them last to minimise cross-infection dangers.
- 3 Wear clean overalls, dip boots before entering the shed and wash hands with bacterial soap before and after examining ewes and lambs or assisting with lambing.
- 4 Keep a bucket of disinfectant on hand at all times to routinely disinfect all lambing equipment, water bowls, teats and milk dispensers, refreshing it regularly.
- 5 Muck out pens frequently, replenish them with fresh bedding generously and disinfect exposed surfaces at least daily.

YOUNG HANDLERS

Campden Students Are Baaarmy About Sheep Emily Haines (15) and Ellie-Mae Hall (14)

In 2009 Chipping Campden School invested in 9 beautiful Cotswold ewes, which we bought from Adam Henson. Mr Carr arranged a club for students of all ages to have a chance to take care of the sheep. Many students applied to join this club and many have enjoyed the opportunity. Chipping Campden School is host to an Environmental Land Based Studies diploma group (ELBS); the sheep play an important role in the course as we learn different skills on animal care and horticultural studies. This course runs for two years and will provide students with the skills they need for a future career in the subject. This course is taught by the amazing Mr Carr and Mrs Jeal.

In 2011 three of the animal club members, Ellie-Mae Hall, Kelly Gardner, and Emily Haines entered some of the school sheep in the Morton Show; this was the very first time the school had shown their sheep so they were a bit nervous, fortunately everyone was very helpful. They first entered in the rare breeds contest and unfortunately did not get a rosette; they also entered in the young handlers contest, this time they did get a rosette. Emily came 6th with her sheep



Chipping Campden School students with one of their sheep

Bruce and Ellie and Kelly got a special award for their sheep Lou and T.J.

The day was a great success thanks to all that helped out.

We love having the Cotswold sheep at the school, and we intend carrying on breeding them.

ENGAGEMENT

Members will be pleased to know that Steve and Lynne Parkes son, Rob, has finally proposed to Jesse Yeates and the wedding is planned for May 2012. As Steve said “one down, one to go”.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society extends a warm welcome to two new Junior Members, Alex and Amy Evans of Abbeydore, Herefordshire.

OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

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

SHOWING & LAMB FINISHING WORKSHOP

On Sunday 24th June, Davina Stanhope has very kindly offered to host a visit to her prize-winning Tingewick Flock. The day will include a Flock Walk - when you will be able to compare Cotswold and Leicester Longwool sheep for yourselves! Davina will hold workshops on Lamb Finishing and on Showing, as well as updating members on the very latest wormers, etc. The farm is just a few minutes drive from the M54, Junction 7. If you are at all interested in attending, for what should be an interesting day, please could you contact Lucinda at the earliest opportunity so that we can see if there are enough people to warrant running the workshop

SCHMALLEMBERG VIRUS

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) have recently issued an information sheet about the Schmallenberg virus (SV) and members who want a copy of the information sheet should contact their local AHVLA laboratory or Lucinda

Briefly, for sheep, the clinical signs are abnormalities in animals born alive or dead at term, or aborted following infection of the dam. The malformations observed include bent limbs, brain deformities, damage to the spinal cord, inability to suck and sometimes fits.

Malformations affecting lambs exposed to the virus in pregnancy may lead to lambing difficulties and excessive force must not be used during lambing and this may risk injury to both the ewe and lamb. In such cases farmers are advised to call their vet

There is no vaccine or treatment available.

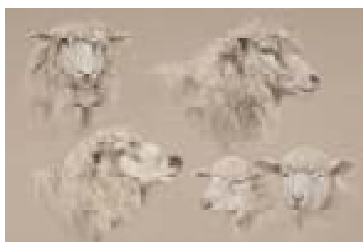
The disease is not notifiable.

SHOW DATES FOR 2012

DATES	SHOW	TEL NO	CLOSING DATE	JUDGE	QUALIFYING SHOWS
April					
28th and 29th	Wonderwool	01982 552224			
May					
19th and 20th	Royal Welsh Spring Festival	01982 554408			
June					
15th - 17th	The Three Counties Show	01684 584900	12th April	Alan Lyons	Frank Houlton/Fleece
17th	Rare Breeds & Minority Breeds	01684 584900	12th April	Steve Parkes	Frank Houlton/Fleece
July					
1st	Cotswold Show, Cirencester Park	01285 652007	15th June	Bob Palmer	Frank Houlton/Fleece
4th	NSA Sheep 2012				
21st	Stroud Show	01453 883646	1st July	Richard Mumford	Frank Houlton/Fleece
23rd - 26th	The Royal Welsh	01982 553683	about 5th May		
August					
3rd and 4th	Cirencester Show and Sale	01291 680068	about 1st July	Robert Boodle	Frank Houlton
19th	Cotswold Farmers, Andoversford	01451 870386	4th August	Thomas Jackson	Frank Houlton
27th	Berkeley Show	01453 543335	about 10th August	Caroline Cunningham	Frank Houlton
27th	Ilmington Show	01608 682 605			
30th	Monmouthshire Show	01291 691160	about 23rd July		
September					
1st	Moreton-in-Marsh Show	01608 651908	13th July	Davina Stanhope	Frank Houlton
9th	Frampton Show	01452 740698			

COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY

POSTCARDS (Pastels)



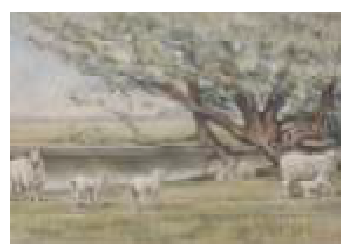
Cotswold Studies



Cotswold Ewe



Cotswold Lambs



Cotswolds by the Tree

NOTELETS



Postcards (Pastels) - 50p per card (Members 10 cards for £3.00) + (50p p&p) Notelets are in packs of 10 (5 of each design) + envelopes

£4.99 per pack + (£1.00 p&p)

or free collection at shows by previous arrangement.

Please send your order and payment to:

Lucinda Foster, Hampton Rise, 1 High Street, Meysey Hampton, GL7 5JW (Cheques payable to 'The Cotswold Sheep Society')

ORIGINAL PHOTO POSTCARDS ALSO AVAILABLE.

To view, and for further information, visit:

www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

SHOW SUCCESSES

Following my request for show successes, other than the usual ones that are reported in the Newsletter, I have heard from two members Steve Parkes and Jean Fearn.

Steve Parkes

2011 Interbreed Champion at the Royal Berkshire Show

Jean Fearn

Jean very kindly wrote to me with the details of her achievements. She started showing in 2004 and so far has won 184 rosettes. Her list of successes include:

Rare Breed Champion at 3 local shows and the overall champion at the Chelford rare breed show and sale

Rare Breed Champion at Ashbourne, firsts at Ashover, Ashbourne, and Hope and a second at Hope.

Congratulations to Steve and Jean and could any other members please let me have their show successes.

COUNCIL CORNER

AGM 2012 – Please note that the date for the AGM AT COLESBOURNE PARK HAS CHANGED TO SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST. Sir Henry and Lady Elwes have kindly arranged for an 11am start with coffee followed by a guided walk around Colesbourne Park with the AGM at 2pm. Members should take their own packed lunches. A form will be sent out nearer the time so we can have a rough idea of numbers. This is going to be a “treat” for everyone and a wonderful way to escape the Olympics for the day, so please do put it into your diaries!

First Aid Training - There is a one day First Aid training course (LANTRA Emergency First Aid at Work Training – HSE Approved) being put on for the Society on Saturday 14th April at The Rural Skills Centre, Agricultural College, Cirencester. The cost is £82 per person. Please let Lucinda know if you would like to book a place on this course.

Flock Competition 2012 - Council would like to encourage members to enter this competition as it is a great way to get advice and chat about your flocks with our judges. Please do complete and return the enclosed form to Lucinda by 20th June so that the competition can get underway during July/August. The judges this year will be Derek Cross and Kate Kay.

Spinning Workshop - This is to be held at Wyck Rissington Village Hall. Ever watched your sheep being sheared and thought 'I really should learn to do something with that lovely wool'? Now's your chance! Join us for a hand spinning workshop on Sunday 12th August at Wyck Rissington Village hall. We will be using Cotswold fleece and drop spindles to create a yarn with real character! The workshop will be led by Emma Turner and David Forster, whose Cotswold flock provide exciting raw materials for their spinning, knitting and weaving. Materials and tools provided. The course will be particularly suitable for beginners. Cost: £20 per person (max of 10 people).

Cotswold Woollen Weavers' Social Evening - Richard Martin has kindly offered to host a "talk" and wine and light refreshments evening at Filkins, near Lechlade, Glos on Saturday 22nd September 2012. Please do also pop this date into your diary as it will be a great social and informative evening.

Website - The website at www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk seems to be working well for members, but Angela Reid would welcome any suggestions as to how things might be improved for visitors to our homepage – please do have a look and email her at amreid343@msn.com with any suggestions you may have. It would be even better if you could get some feedback from your "non sheep" friends as we would like to encourage them onto the website as well! Council is looking into having a Facebook page and a Paypal button so watch this space!

Newsletter - Please do keep sending articles and photos to John Flanders for the Newsletters on info@hendraveancotswolds.co.uk. He is particularly keen to establish the new Young Handlers section. Many thanks to the Chipping Campden School students who have kindly contributed to this Newsletter.

Society Talk and Slides/powerpoint Presentation: Thomas Jackson has recently given a most successful talk with slides to the Cirencester Civic Society which not only seemed to be enjoyed by all, but plenty of merchandise was also sold on the evening. Please do see if any of your local groups, e.g. WI, Young Farmers would like to host a presentation on

Cotswold sheep and give Lucinda contact details of any groups which are interested so she can make the necessary arrangements. The suggested charge would be £40 plus mileage.

The Winter Social - The Winter Social in Condicote Village Hall was deemed a most enjoyable evening and was financially a great success. However Council have decided to return to the Westwood Centre, Northleach for this year's Winter Social as the hall is more spacious. Please keep 24th November 2012 free for this year's annual dinner.

2012 Registration Certificates - Council has decided that all certificates will be emailed in future to members if the Society holds the member's email address. Please therefore ensure that Lynne has your up-to-date email address.

Backing Tags - Please note that members should contact Lynne if and when members require new backing tags as they will no longer automatically be sent out to members annually. (The backing tag is the half of the tag, which shows your flock number.)

Council Nominations - Please complete the enclosed Council Nomination form and return it to Lucinda by 26th March 2012. Richard Mumford will be stepping down at the AGM and his replacement will almost certainly be an existing Council member so there is likely to be five vacancies. The four existing members of Council up for re-election are Robin Leach, Margaret Pursch, Steve Parkes and Davina Stanhope and other nominations are welcome.

Registrations - Members are encouraged to keep postage down by registering and transferring more sheep on-line. If anyone would like any help with doing this, please contact Lynne on 01451 830461.

Rosettes – Council wish to thank Paul Froehlich for, once again, generously supplying all the rosettes for the forthcoming show season.

THE WINTER SOCIAL



Robert Boodle and Richard Mumford in action



Joe Henson and Lynne Parkes enjoying themselves



The buffet table



The spinners from the Back to Back

DIRECTORY

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

Meat

None

Skins

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

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

Woollen Goods

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

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

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

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

E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers

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

Farming Connect Service Centre – 08456 000 813

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

SHEEP FOR SALE/WANTED

This is a free service for buyers and sellers.

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

FOR SALE:

Mr John Flanders, Glyn Yr Eryr, Talgarreg, Llandysul, Ceredigion

SA44 4HB

Tel. 01545 590438

HAS FOR SALE Bemborough Ram C9074

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.