



# *Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter*

Registered Charity No. 1013326  
October 2012

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

[info@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk) [www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk)

## **Council Officers**

Chairman – The Hon. Mrs A. Reid Vice-Chairman – Mr. Thomas Jackson  
Secretary - Ms. Sam Furlong Treasurer- Mrs. Lynne Parkes

## **Council Members**

Ms E Turner, Mrs. C. Cunningham, Mrs. S Robinson, Mr. N Hatch,  
Mr. D. Cross

## **Editor**

Mr. J. Flanders



*Weather typical of 2012 – Cardigan County Show*

## **EDITORIAL**

**John Flanders**

This edition of the Newsletter sees a number of personnel changes within the Society with Sam Furlong taking over from Lucinda Foster as Secretary, Angela Reid has become Chairman, and Emma Turner is now responsible for the web site; more about these people can be found later in the Newsletter.

Also it gives me great sadness to report that Judy Wilkie has decided to stand down from writing her column of “The View From Here” as she feels the baton should be passed to other, younger, members of the Society. Since she started contributing nearly three years ago her comments and knowledge about farming in general, and sheep in particular, have been interesting and most informative. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the help she has given by writing the articles. If anyone would like to take over from Judy please do not hesitate to contact me.

For those who saw Countryfile on 23<sup>rd</sup> September when Adam Henson was in Switzerland helping to herd the sheep down from the mountains, the sheep that he referred to as the “Black-Nosed”, have their origins with our own sheep, the Cotswolds – see the June 2012 Newsletter. Maybe someone could draw this to Adam’s attention and he could refer to it in a forthcoming programme of Countryfile.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

**Judy Wilkie**

It has been another interesting year and Council has worked constantly to keep the Society running efficiently and provide a varied programme of events for us all to attend.

We have many wonderful members in our society with diverse talents who are prepared to work hard together to keep our Society moving forward. We continue to build on the past whilst looking to the future with all its modern technology.

Recently I have been rereading some earlier Newsletters and am reminded of many happy days spent at our events. There is also an enormous amount of practical

information to help us with the daily management of our flocks and of course much of this is now also available on our website pages. It is really worthwhile to take a little time to look at old newsletters because if they arrive during a busy time it is easy to forget to read them fully.

I am looking forward to another successful year for the society and also for each of us and our flocks

## **THE VIEW FROM HERE**

**West Wales**

**John Flanders**

What can one say about this Summer other than, to put it politely, it has been a challenge; the weather has been rather like my school reports “could do better”. In the early Spring we had high hopes of a few weeks of fine weather in which a good crop of hay would be produced. So the fields were fertilised and stock removed and nature was left to do its best, which it certainly did in terms of moisture; the grass grew, and grew, and grew; but I suppose that is what happens in a rain forest. By mid July there was still no sign of a dry spell and the grass at ground level was beginning to turn black, but suddenly around the time of the Royal Welsh a high pressure system came in and all of a sudden dormant machines, including mine, were kicked into life and any field that had grass was cut. Everywhere there were big bales of wrapped silage/haylage. We cut and tilled the grass then got the baler out to make some small bales, but it took the huff and refused to cooperate. I tried to persuade it with a hammer, but to no avail and had to resort to getting a contractor in at short notice to make big bale haylage. After we had got it all wrapped and stored, the baler thought it would be fun to behave and is now working alright.

Not only did the wet weather affect the hay making, but it also prevented a field from being ploughed for re-seeding. The two other fields that we had re-sown in 2010 and 2011 needed mole ploughing, but this could not be done until mid August because the soil was too wet. Although these fields had been drained there were a number of rushes poking their way through and an herbicide was called for as well as a sprayer. The sprayer was bought, but is designed to fit on the back of a quad bike, so it was out with the welder and make a cradle which would attach to the back of the tractor; result nice brown rushes!!!!

This year we started showing for the first time and quite enjoyed it. Unfortunately, one show was cancelled because of the poor weather and another was held in heavy

pouring rain, which went through my freshly waxed coat. At one (dry) show our feed merchant was there so I asked him if he had seen our sheep and, as he said “no”, I took him over to the pen. He just stared at them for three or four minutes, completely mesmerised by their size, to me they are a normal, but all he would say was “beautiful sheep” – I do not disagree!!

## **Gloucestershire**

### **Judy Wilkie**

Once again the time for preparing for the future of our flocks arrived with the choice of a ram to use on our ewes. This decision alters the future of our flock and can be a difficult one depending on so many factors. The main choice is whether to buy, home breed or hire and now after many years of buying and home breeding I have moved to hiring and that removes the problem of looking after a ram all year on a small holding.

It has been so wet that some of my sheep have developed a green tinge to their wool caused by constant rain and I have not seen that for some time. Whether this will alter the quality of the wool much I do not know but certainly a wool cheque in excess of eighty pounds this year instead of five pounds for a years clip as was the case not so long ago was a welcome rise and with shearing my own and not costing my time will buy a few bags of cake.

This year we have used a selective weed killer on one of the paddocks and topped the others with a second hand ride on mower as the sheep move to the next one as needed. We had to buy two to make one useable one but now have plenty of spares and it has done a whole season and the paddocks look better for the attention.

This summer the sheep only had a couple of tiny patches of maggots perhaps due to bird droppings as the sheep often have birds perching on them. In each case they were about due to have their next spray of fly treatment which reminded me to keep a careful watch on the due dates for worming and spraying the sheep. It is also very important to write the withdrawal period date down before you treat to make sure that you have not planned to send anything for slaughter. Always recheck the withdrawal period for anything you are using on your sheep as vetrazin has changed from 3 days to 28 days on the new stock. This will make a great difference to how it is used in the future but the old stock as long as it is in date still carries a 3 day withdrawal as stated on the container.

This year as usual I shall be buying my hay as I need it from next door and have just had the good news that it will be coming over the fence onto my pallets as big square bales. That will be so much easier to ration, to cover (with a piece of lorry side sheet) and to take small amounts anywhere on my wheelbarrow or trolley. These are for me much easier to handle as long as I remember to retie as I take some off the end or move the feed rack up

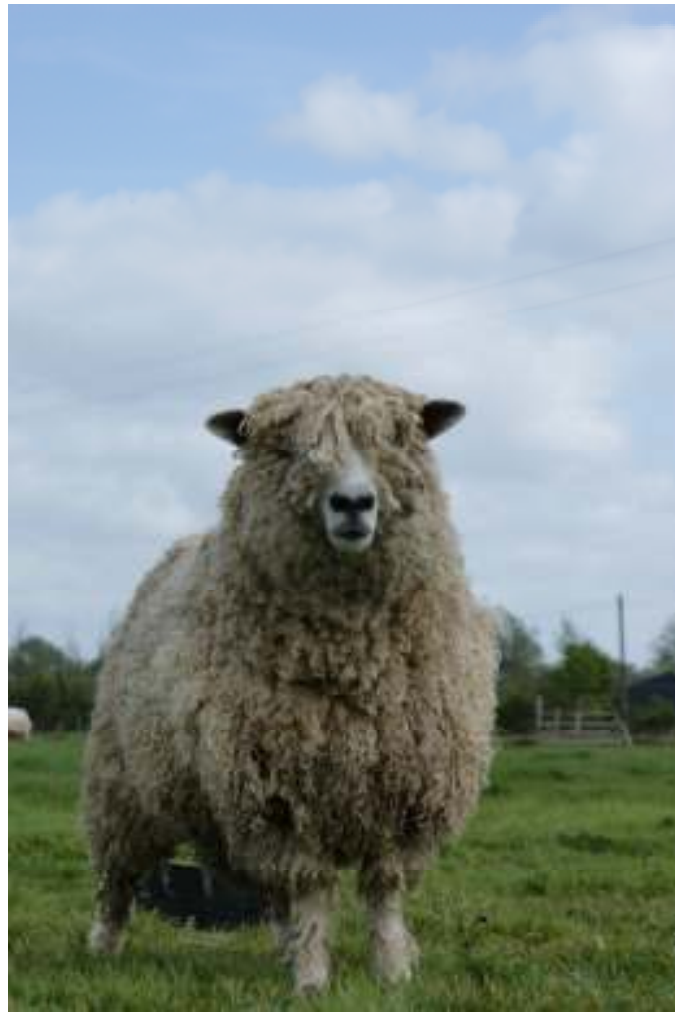
## **ALFIE PURL AND THE MEDIA FRENZY**

**or**

**How an ordinary Cotswold sheep became a global star!**

**Emma Turner**

We're a bit soft, really, with our sheep. We have a 'play nice' policy (persistent violators get put in the freezer) but generally the sheep aren't treated like a commercial flock, being wool providers with entertaining personalities. We have 17 Cotswolds and a few others (Suffolks, a Lincoln Longwool, Lleyns and a Cotswold/Suffolk cross), but the Cotswolds are our pride and joy. Alfie is a case in point. He's a 6 year old Cotswold wether, who in anyone else's flock would probably have been made into lamb chops a long time ago. He was a sickly lamb, accident prone and quirky, and has caused me many sleepless nights. However, he has grown into a friendly and affectionate creature who is a major draw for visitors at our farm open days and who gives us a great deal of pleasure just by being around. His many friends have maintained, though, that one day he would become better known, and so it proved last year, when due to a quirk of fate Alfie became one of the most famous sheep in the world!



*Alfie Purl*

The story didn't exactly start well. In early October 2010, we got the whole flock in to give them a bit of TLC. Alfie and the other big Cotswolds in our flock are trained to stand on three legs like a horse so that we don't have to turn them when they have their feet trimmed, and they normally don't mind doing this at all, but this particular day was different. Alfie was obviously in a very odd mood, and when it was his turn objected strenuously to having his feet handled. It took three of us to turn him over, and even whilst sitting up on his rump he kicked and fought. I had the head end, and got quite a battering as he flung himself around. We were all rather bruised at the end of the day, and I must admit I wondered whether Alfie was OK. The following day, though, he was back to normal, and I wrote off that incident as just being an aberration. Two or three days later, with the bruising on my chest coming out nicely, I noticed a small, hard lump in my right breast, and I immediately had a bad feeling about it. Sure enough, after some investigation, it turned out to be breast cancer. Events moved very fast after that, and I had surgery and chemotherapy at Swindon hospital. The team there were convinced that Alfie saved my life by drawing my attention to the cancer, whether deliberately or

accidentally nobody knew. If I hadn't found the lump when I did, it could have gone unnoticed for another couple of years, by which time it might have been too late for the hope of a cure.

As you can imagine, Alfie got a lot of appreciation for what he had done. As an affectionate joke, we set up a Facebook page for him, which amused me as I went through the chemotherapy, and Alfie got 21 friends, which we thought was pretty good going. He was popular at the hospital, too, with all the medical team asking after him every time I visited. I read that it is useful to have something about yourself, as a patient, to ensure that hospital staff remember you; I heard that I was described in multi-disciplinary meetings as 'the sheep lady', so Alfie certainly did ensure I was a memorable patient! The path of my treatment wasn't exactly smooth. My second surgery was scheduled for mid June 2011, the same time as our farm open day, and I persuaded my surgeon to postpone it until the week after, because I knew that Alfie, who always relishes open day, would stand at the gate and bleat incessantly if the event went ahead without him. My surgeon agreed, and along with half the hospital staff and district nurses, said they would come along to the open day and see us then.

Of course, our plans were thwarted by the weather, and the heavens opened, so much so that everyone sensibly stayed away, but one of our few visitors was a very young, soaking wet reporter from our local paper, the *Swindon Advertiser*. My friend Lorraine Stanton, who runs the farm with her husband Mark, tipped her off that I had an interesting story which I might be persuaded to talk about, and I decided to go ahead with an interview, reasoning that there's a moral behind the story which definitely needs to be emphasised (check yourself regularly for lumps, don't rely on fate to alert you to anything wrong!) The following morning I was due at the hospital early for a pre-surgery assessment, and after having done my usual trick of fainting during my blood test (chemo has really badly affected my veins!) I went to the cafe for a restorative coffee. Whilst there, I received a text from a friend who had been at the open day the day before. It said 'You are on the front page of the Adver!' Sure enough, he was right. There we were, me and Alfie; I looked rather bedraggled in my wig (my hair had all fallen out with the chemo treatment) and Alfie looked wonderful, if fed up (the photographer had got him to look into the driving rain, and he clearly resented that, as everyone who knows him could immediately see!) I bought several copies and went to the breast care centre in the hospital, had a good laugh with the staff there, and went back home again.



*Emma with Alfie Purl*

My ignorance of how the media works was brought into sharp focus over the next hour or so. My phone rang off the hook. My personal Facebook page was besieged. Alfie's Facebook page suddenly became of great interest to a lot of people, and his total of friends skyrocketed. The Advertiser had obviously sold the story on, and we ended up in a surprising selection of publications, some of which I would not have volunteered to be in; the Sun, the Daily Mail, and Hello magazine (the last one caused the most hilarity amongst my friends and family - Kate Middleton on the front cover, Alfie on the inside back page). I was on Radio 5 Live and Heart, talking about my story and about breast cancer. We had a phone call from an Australian radio station who wanted to interview me, and I turned down both BBC and ITV local TV news. The story went viral on the Internet, with websites all over the world picking it up and rewriting it to suit their own audiences - and all the time Alfie's total of friends kept going up and up. We were now having to 'feed' his page at least once per day; with all the media interest in him, we had to keep traffic up. The Facebook page became a community for breast cancer survivors, sheep fans, textile artists, and lovers of quirky stories, and we were able to track the progress of the story round the globe by the nationalities of Alfie's new friends as they signed up.

I went into hospital that Friday for my surgery having had a thoroughly wonderful and distracting week. My surgeon was particularly tickled by the whole business, being a huge fan of Alfie himself. I had a community of nearly 700 people around the world sending me prayers and good wishes, and I'm sure that it all helped me come through the surgery as easily as I did. I've made a good recovery, I seem to be cancer-free so far, and Alfie's community of friends has grown to 865, all of whom are still enjoying the joke and love interacting with him online (even though they all

know it's me they're really talking to).

The question I am so often asked is 'do you think Alfie knew that there was something wrong with you?' It's a difficult one to answer, especially because many people desperately want the answer to be 'yes'. I'm just not sure. I believe that sheep (especially Cotswold sheep) are intelligent and observant animals who have bonds with their owners and perceive the world in a way which we humans cannot ever fully understand. I generally lean towards the notion of it having been a happy accident; something that Alfie felt he had to do, but without understanding why. However, I keep coming back to the fact that what he did was so out of character. He has not behaved that way before or since (and if he does it again, believe me, I'll be at the hospital before an hour has elapsed!) So, when asked, I generally smile mysteriously and say that whatever the reasons, I'm grateful beyond words for what he did.

Alfie is charmingly unchanged by his global fame, despite now having a song inspired by him (by our friend Talis Kimberley, singer-songwriter extraordinaire), a global following, and a website, plus a range of merchandise in the pipeline, not to mention some ideas for a book "authored" by him. We think that he is the most famous Cotswold sheep in the world, and has brought the breed to the attention of people all over the planet. If you are on Facebook, please do visit him there - you can find him at [www.facebook.com/alfiepurl](http://www.facebook.com/alfiepurl) - or go to his website, [www.alfiepurl.co.uk](http://www.alfiepurl.co.uk).

## **FARM SAFETY – A SALUTORY LESSON**

### **Woody(Neil) Hatch**

First I think I ought to introduce myself. My name is Neil, but all my friends in the Society know me as Woody (I'll save that explanation for another newsletter!). Myself, my partner Sam, and our two lads, Ethan and Ben have a small flock of Cotswolds of 30 ewes and rams. I mainly work on my uncle's arable farm and for a local agricultural contractor in season. I also do a little bit of ground works and landscaping during the winter.

Well, I don't think any harvest season that we've had to contend with has ever challenged us the way that this one has, and in our case not just because of the weather. We just knew the incredibly dry weather last Winter and Spring had to change at some point, and change it did. From late May the baler's and mowers sat

in the shed for week after week waiting for a break in the weather. For two weeks in mid June all five tractors sat in the yard and were not even refuelled once. Depressed didn't even come close to the expression on all farmers and contractors faces. The long range weather forecast at last seemed to suggest something a little better around the first week of July, at last it seemed like we might get that break. And then I got a phone call that we all dread.....

My uncle, whilst fixing a grass topper on the back of a tractor, had become trapped under the machine when a prop had slipped. Somehow he had managed to crawl free and phone me for help. I knew that it was serious and whilst rushing up to the farm to find him I phoned the ambulance. When I found him he was in a lot of pain in his back. Making him comfortable whilst keeping him immobile, we waited for the paramedic. Being out in the rural north Cotswolds as we are this seemed to take forever. Upon arriving the paramedic took one look and said 'where can we land a helicopter?'

From the moment the paramedic asked that question and made the call until when the air ambulance arrived was around twenty five minutes. The time from when I called 999 and the paramedic turned up was almost an hour. This highlights the incredible service that the air ambulance provides, particularly for those of us who work on the land, far away from the main roads. The journey by road from the farm to the spinal unit at Coventry hospital would take almost an hour, it took them twenty minutes. The other huge advantage is that the ambulance does not have to bounce down a rutted farm track. In Martin's case this is what the doctors said made all the difference, as he had, as we feared, broken his back. Though somehow, his actual spinal cord was completely undamaged. Remaining immobile for 4 days, he was then operated on and had his broken vertebrae pinned and bolted. Thirty six hours after the operation they had him on his feet, and five days later, much to my amazement, he was home.

As I write this, 11 weeks after the accident, he walks the dog every morning much the same as he has done for the last 15 years. Even more amazingly and probably against what he ought to be doing, he has been back on his tractor, been drilling and has done a bit of ploughing. I wonder if he had been bumped down the farm track in the back of a conventional ambulance and had not been seen so quickly by the amazing surgeons of the NHS, would he have had this outcome. Please, whenever you see the bucket with the Air Ambulance sticker on it, give generously. I, probably like you, never imagined would be in a situation that required their services.

Never imagining it would ever happen to you is also the thought that I have about

safety. Martin's accident, and the tragic incident in Northern Ireland where the whole male side of a family have been wiped out in a slurry silo this week, really has brought home to me the reality that we work in a very dangerous industry. Though sheep farming may traditionally may not be as risky as some of the other sectors in agriculture, remember, most of us are a long way from help. We cannot do anything about the weather, but we can all try to keep safe!

## **THE TRAINING OF A WOOLMAN**

**Kate Elliot**

I was born and brought up in London with no access to farm livestock. As a child and teenager I had read lots of books by people like Buchan, Dorothy L. Sayers, Josephine Tey and had been struck by the regular theme of blind spinners in the Western Isles. I resolved to learn to spin. I also resolved to learn to play the bagpipes, but I haven't got there yet.

I took myself off to Dryad and bought a Haldane wheel (pretty much all that was available in the early 1970s, just before Ashfords started to be imported in numbers). There soon followed a Jacob fleece from the Wool Board which only an electrician could have found a use for. Then the three-day week came along and I decided that when the electricity went off in the evening I would teach myself to spin. To this day I startle people by being able to look at them as I spin.

Spinning got me so hooked on fleece, and on the different types of wool (and fibre generally) that were available that I went round shows and everywhere there was fleece, and I acquired a staple or two from every fleece I came across. These I labelled carefully and kept in a large plastic bag. I would go through them from time to time, learning the different feel of each, the different characteristics of each and, gradually, what effect climate had on fleece and what, therefore, one could expect fleeces from particular breeds of the UK to be like.

When the Stoneleigh Rare Breeds Show and Sale began its fleece class, I was the obvious steward. I was lucky enough to work there year after year with one of the three best woolmen of that generation, Mark Powell (now Deputy Head of the Wool Board). I sat at his feet, asked questions and listened carefully to the answers. The second, Neil Oakley, we used as fleece judge at our own show and he judged at Singleton and the South of England, so I learned from him there. But I was particularly lucky to become a friend of the third woolman, Nick Crockford of H. &

C. Pearce in Thame, one of the last to bear the ancient title of ‘Wool Stapler’. Thame wasn’t too far away for me to go down there quite often. Nick and I would dive into the bins, selecting good fleeces of their breed, talking about them. He would hand me staples to identify, let me help grade his wool and taught me all the woolman’s phrases that puzzle everyone else – ‘blocky’, ‘flannelled’, ‘yolky’ etc. At the same time I was showing my own sheep in wool classes and diving into the fleeces of the other contestants. Stephen Spencer has also helped me more recently by being prepared to talk about the fleeces with me.

All this learning took me almost 30 years (I wasn’t doing it day by day as the professionals were), but eventually Nick decided I was ready to judge a fleece competition. I am now only the third – and the only non-professional - resident fleece judge at Singleton, after Neil and Nick. I am frequently consulted by breeders on what their fleeces should be like, etc. I have startled some fleece judges by pointing out that what they thought they had identified wasn’t what they thought it was. And I felt I had arrived this year when I stewarded for an exciting young woolman, Ian Brooksbank, in his first foray into Cotswolds and we both loved the same fleece, whereupon its owner said, ‘I think it’s a woolman’s fleece’. I thought about it, realised he was right, and decided that that meant I really was a woolman.

## **BIG OR SMALL, THE NSA IS FOR ALL**

**Phil Stocker – Chief Executive NSA**

Membership of any organisation has to be of mutual benefit and the National Sheep Association is no different. Our offer is one of support and services that will directly help any sheep keeper, as well as wider representation and lobbying that benefits the sheep keeping community as a whole.

Whether it’s information on best worming practice, overcoming lameness, compliant tagging procedures, in fact virtually any practical topic, the NSA provides information that will help, and in addition can often put members in contact with others who have similar problems or have found solutions. It doesn’t matter if you have 5 sheep or 5000 sheep, this information and help will raise your enthusiasm, it will save you money, and increase your productivity. For wider industry issues such as sheep tagging rules and the movement database, Schmallenberg virus, and fallen stock, the NSA is continuously working with regulators and policy makers aiming to make sure that rules, regulations, and central Government services are as practical and workable as possible. Not an

easy challenge given the red tape that surrounds keeping livestock but you can be sure that things would be far worse without the practical and forward thinking contribution we make. With NSA membership subscriptions at £50 p.a., and, until the end of 2012, first year subs being reduced on signing up by direct debit, to just £25, there is no question that whether you are big or small in terms of the size of your flock the benefits from joining quickly outweigh the costs.

As well as providing individual membership NSA also offers affiliation to breed societies such as your Cotswold Sheep Society. Currently we have 83 affiliated 'breed societies' creating close communication and working relationships – ensuring everyone is informed and pulling in a common direction. What this affiliation doesn't do is provide NSA membership for all its breed society members. Of course it is easy to think that if your breed society is affiliated to NSA you are part of 'the family' and of course to an extent you are. However, to become an individual member in your own right creates a closer more direct relationship that provides you with more support – and helps NSA to increase its effectiveness in the lobbying and political work we do. Increasing membership numbers allows us to increase our capacity and be even more effective, and in addition it means we have a stronger mandate in our lobbying work.

At a recent NSA breed society forum held at the Royal Agricultural College, we discussed ways to further strengthen society affiliation and agreed that one way of doing this was to ensure that all breed society members were aware of the benefits of being an individual NSA member and were invited to join. Your society, the Cotswold Sheep Society, has kindly agreed to be as active in this as possible, including this piece in your newsletter and inserting a NSA membership form for your consideration. Examples of our activities and our services are covered in the membership form and signing up is as easy as filling in and returning the slip. Alternatively go to the NSA web site where joining is easy. Even if you only have a handful, if its sheep you're interested in, being a member of the NSA will help, and just immerse you deeper in a world you are passionate about.

## **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

**Richard Broad - RSBT**

During my varied life as a Field Officer for the RBST, one of my more challenging aspects is teaching on the Grazing Animals Project (GAP) courses. GAP runs a two day course on Conservation Grazing mainly for people from Wildlife trusts, Park

Rangers and others, involved in using farm animals for landscape management.

The course is run for people with various levels of knowledge of the subject, and one of the main topics is the Five Freedoms. Based on work by Professor Webster, at Bristol University, the Five Freedoms, started by the RSPCA, has become an important guide to assessing management systems for animals in any farm situation.

The Freedom from Thirst and Hunger, may be more relevant in a scrubby area where available food might be limited than in a lush grass field. However water provision especially in housed stock, like ewes indoors prior to lambing is critical. I have been recently to a large sheep farmer who was very busy taking out all the large water troughs in his lambing shed and replacing them with small almost hand size troughs. The reason behind this was the large troughs were always getting forage and sheep poo in them and were very difficult to keep clean, and the new troughs could be scooped out by hand regularly to provide clean water at all times. So to fulfill this freedom you have not only look at the quantity of forage/water but also their quality and suitability to the stock you are keeping .

#### **List of the RSPCA Five Freedoms**

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

Freedom from Discomfort

Freedom from Fear and Stress

Freedom from Pain and Injury

Freedom to express Normal Behaviour Patterns.

These are now part of most Farm Assurance schemes and are a useful check list when you are putting your sheep or any Farm animals in a new situation. I feel these Five Freedoms have particular relevance to new sheep keepers and any livestock people who are about to keep a new farm species. But also for the experienced livestock keeper, where current practices might be unknowingly causing suffering. Classic examples would be keeping animals on their own, mixing groups, and old farm practices, which are clearly wrong but have been done like that for generations.

# **YOUNG HANDLERS**

**Ethan and Ben Hannis**

Our names are Ethan and Ben; we have been showing our sheep in the Young Handler classes this summer and have really enjoyed ourselves.

We bought our first sheep in 2010 from Angela Reid. We did not show the first year that we had them as we thought we needed time to get to know our sheep. We did help our Mum show the sheep last year. This year we have been to every show that was not rained off and we went in every young handler class. We have both had great fun showing our sheep and have learnt lots. We really hope there will be lots more Young Handler classes next summer. We can't wait for the Winter Social to find out who has won the trophies for this year's showing. We went to Newbury Show again this year and we went in the Young Handler Class there, we did not have our sheep there so we took Delboy and Fifi in; they belong to Steve Parkes but he let us borrow them.

Our friends at school think it's really cool that we have our own sheep. At lambing time the After School Club come and visit our sheep and we tell them all about our Cotswolds.

Our sheep run with our family owned flock. But our very own sheep are called Kirsty and Blaise. They are shearling ewes. We brought them from Davina Stanhope at the Rare Breed Sale at Cirencester last year. This year we have both won a few rosettes which we have on display on our bedroom walls. Our ewes are out with the tup now and we hope to have some nice lambs to continue our showing with.



*Ethan and Ben at the Newbury Show*

## **ROMAN SHEEP**

### **An Archaeological Assessment**

It is well-established lore that the Cotswold sheep, with its characteristic heavy curly fleece, was introduced to Britain by the Romans and kept on their large estates. How much of this claim can be substantiated by archaeological evidence? Most archaeological sites in Britain produce animal remains. The size of the site, the nature of the excavation, and the composition of the soil can determine the quantities of animal skeletons, or more commonly, bone fragments, which are recovered. These faunal remains are an important thread of evidence in the complex tapestry which can be woven from the material excavated from the earth. Analysis of the bones can tell archaeologists the sex, age at death, size, and even the health of the animals. This data can provide a window into the past, as we tease out such information as what people ate, how they prepared it, and what their animal husbandry techniques were. We can begin to speculate about trade, communication, and even religious practices.

Trends from all over Late Iron Age and Roman period Britain indicate that for the most part juvenile sheep were a highly marketable commodity, particularly on military and urban sites. The one notable exception to this is the Cotswold region, where there is a significantly higher proportion of mature animals kept. This suggests a specialist trade in wool, long predating the Middle Ages. This concentration of the breed is reflected in the modern density (Figure 1).

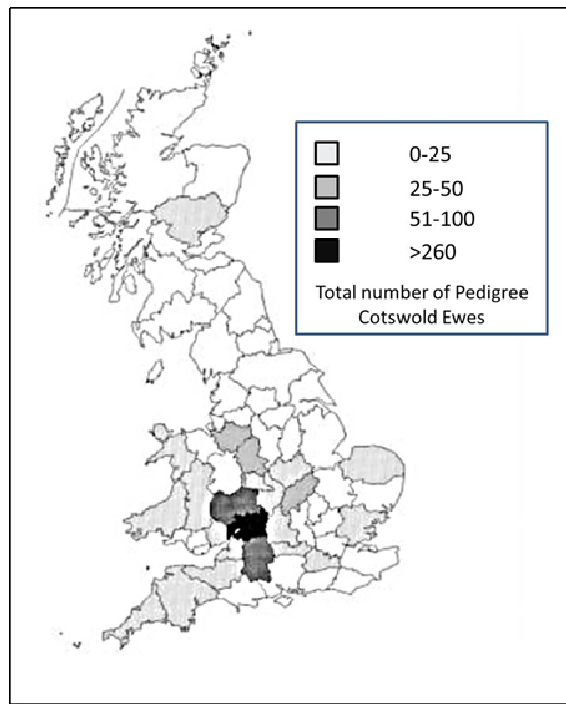


Figure 1. Density of Cotswold Pedigree Ewes in Britain (*after Philo 2000:105*)

Recent excavations at Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire have shown that even as late as the 4<sup>th</sup> century, sheep was the dominant species; an animal enclosure excavated just north of the village produced an abundance of sheep bones, including neonates, suggesting that sheep were raised as well as consumed by the local population. But were these sheep Cotswold sheep? Based on the high numbers of juvenile specimens for this assemblage, the preference may have been for meat. The metrical data indicates that the sheep were small, by the standards of the period. It is likely that these were still local breeds being raised for consumption, unlike the examples from further up the Thames Valley closer to the Cotswolds.

At Claydon Pike, near Lechlade, the Late Iron Age and Early Roman sheep population appears to have also been slaughtered at a relatively early age, but by the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, this changes and there is a preference for mature animals.; the metrical data in this instance shows a marked increase in both wither height and width of the distal tibia, perhaps matching a change in the breed. This increase in size in the mid- to late Roman period is well documented across the region. This suggests a shift from meat to wool. At Barton Court Farm, near Abingdon, examples of iron shears have been recovered from 3-4<sup>th</sup> century paddock ditches.

Representations of sheep on the continent show long-tailed breeds; it has been suggested that the pre-Roman sheep were dark-woolled, horned and short tailed, contrasting the white-woolled and often hornless sheep of Europe. A bronze ram figurine recovered from the construction of the Fenny Stratford bypass in

Buckinghamshire (Figure 2) shows a ram with horns and a long tail as well as the representation of curly fleece. The almond shape of the eyes is a characteristic of British rather than Roman artistic style. This perception of a sheep as a long-tailed curly fleeced creature by a British craftsman may hint at a fairly early introduction of the continental species. A similar bronze was recovered from Eastern Herefordshire.

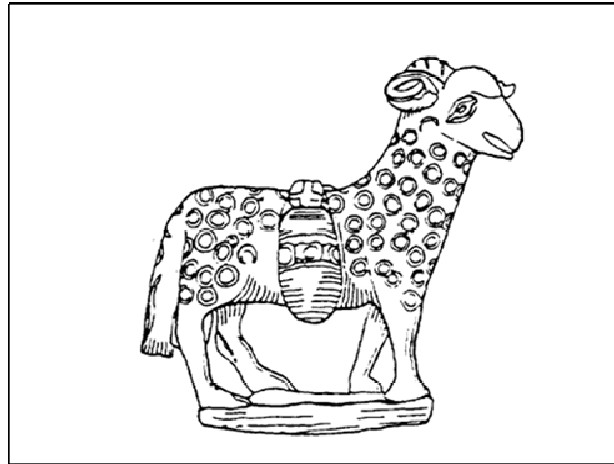


Figure 2. Bronze Figure of ram, 1st - 4th century. *Drawing by R.J. Williams.*

Whether the Roman breeds were cross-bred with the ‘indigenous’ sheep or actually replaced them is uncertain. Breeding experiments in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century indicated that crossing the Cotswold sheep with dark woolled breeds, such as the Karakul and Soay (the latter thought to be very like the Bronze Age/Iron Age dominant breed) produced without exception dark lambs, although the first-cross lambs exhibited the characteristic curly fleece. This suggests that perhaps the Cotswold sheep may have a direct non-insular origin.

If this is so, perhaps one could trace the origin of the breed through DNA variation. Some successful work has been done in Spain at the University of Bilbao tracking six separate sheep breed through the DNA. The Ancient DNA Laboratory in Changchun China has had some recent success using ancient DNA extracted from archaeologically retrieved bones of the Chinese Bronze Age (2200-1700BC). The technology and expertise now exist to look at ancient sheep DNA and to explore the variations, which led to individual breeds. The extraction and viability of ancient DNA is not without some pitfalls; contamination continues to be a real problem, as well as the degradation of the samples by extremes of temperature and aridity.

As mentioned earlier, the usefulness of the faunal remains can in large part be predicated on the composition of the soil. Too much acidity in the soil and the bones do not survive at all. Heavily ploughed soils can result in a bone assemblage that is

too fragmented and abraded to be of much use. Fortunately, at the site of the Dorchester-on-Thames excavations, currently running every July under the auspices of the University of Oxford, Oxford Archaeology, and the Dorchester Abbey Museum, the soil conditions are perfect. The light, free-draining soils which overlie the Thames gravel terraces offer remarkable bone preservation. It would be a useful place to begin the search for useable ancient DNA for the sheep population of Roman Dorchester. We have the ability to finally discover if the Cotswold sheep *is* a legacy of the Romans, or perhaps of earlier continental contacts. Such a project would likely be very costly, and at present there is neither the funding nor the intention to pursue this line of enquiry, but the potential is certainly a tantalising one.

**Further reading:**

- ALBARELLA, U. 2007. The end of the Sheep Age: people and animals in the Late Iron Age. In C. Haselgrove & T. Moore (eds.) *The Later Iron Age in Britain and beyond*: 389-402. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- CAI, D. *et al.* 2011. Early history of Chinese domestic sheep indicated by ancient DNA analysis Bronze Age individuals. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 38:896-902.
- MILES, D. *et al.* 2007. *Iron Age and Roman settlement in the Upper Thames Valley: excavations at Claydon Pike and other sites within the Cotswold Water Park*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- NODDLE, B.A. 1984. A comparison of the bones of cattle, sheep and pigs from ten Iron Age and Romano-British sites: 105-23. In C. Grigson & J. Clutton-Brock (eds.) *Animals in archaeology 4: husbandry in Europe*. Oxford: Archaeopress.
- PHILO, C. 2000. *Animal spaces, beastly places: new geographies of human-animal relations*. London: Routledge.
- RENDO, F. *et al.* 2004. Tracking diversity and differentiation in six sheep breeds from the North Iberian Peninsula through DNA variation. *Small Ruminant Research* 52:195–202.
- RYDER, M.L. 1984. *Sheep & Man*. London: Duckworth.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

**John Flanders**

**“Sheep In The Cotswolds – The Mediaeval Wool Trade” by Derek Hurst**

This book, which was first published in 2005, is written by an archaeologist with Worcestershire County Council and extends to nearly 220 pages including an appendix of mediaeval wool merchants and dealers of the Cotswolds, and an extensive bibliography.

The book firstly discusses the Cotswold sheep and their origins and follows this with a discussion on the wool trade in the Middle Ages with particular reference to

the Cotswolds. There then follows individual chapters on each century from the 11<sup>th</sup> onwards. It is well known that, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Garne family were instrumental in saving the breed for posterity and it is interesting to note that, in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, a wool merchant, Richard Cely, bought woolfells (wool with the skin attached) from a Margaret Garne, thus giving a direct link between the family and the mediaeval heyday of the Cotswold wool trade.

It is interesting to note the book comments that

“The Cotswold sheep at the beginning half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was, therefore, probably true to its mediaeval type when it was described in living memory as having been then “ a small light carcassed, polled animal” with “a fleece of fine wool of about 3 lbs”, while by the later 18<sup>th</sup> century this long-woolled sheep had been “improved” but “not changed” (Marshall 1796)...During this period Bakewell popularised the Leicester breed of sheep, and its widespread introduction generally increased the amount of long staple wool available across the country (Bowden 1956-7). However, Cotswold breeders may not have persisted with the Leicester, as at least one writer in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century reckoned that too much breeding with Leicesters reduced the size of the sheep, as well as reducing the quality and quantity of wool (Marshall 1818).”

Whatever the outcome and how it relates to the current form of Cotswold sheep is another matter, but the book is a fascinating insight into the history of the wool industry of the Cotswolds and is worthwhile reading.

The current list price is £17.99.

## **RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS**

### **Showing and Finishing Workshop**

In July Davina Stanhope kindly held a workshop at her farm near Shrewsbury on finishing sheep, showing them, and comparing Cotswolds with Longwool Leicesters. The meeting was very well attended particularly as many had to travel considerable distances.

After coffee and delicious cake, made by Rhys's mother, Davina took us on a trip around the farm showing her stock and explaining how she farms the land. This was then followed by lunch in one of the barns usually used for grain storage.

After lunch the real business of the day began with Davina explaining the difference between Cotswold and Longwool Leicester sheep; it all comes down to differences in the ears and the hock of the two breeds. Davina then went on to explain how to finish lambs for market and was at pains to point out that Cotswolds can be finished to the same standard as the more commercial breeds by careful feeding and selling at the right time. Finally, she showed us how to halter train a sheep.

The meeting was most enjoyable, particularly as, for once, the weather was kind. We are most grateful to Davina for all her efforts, and those of Rhys's mother (the cakes!), for hosting a splendid day.

### **Social Evening at Cotswold Woollen Weavers**

In September, Richard Martin from The Cotswold Woollen Weavers, very kindly hosted an evening for the Cotswold Sheep Society. It gave members a wonderful opportunity to visit the beautifully restored mill that up until recently would have been alive with the clatter of loom shuttles, and the air heavy with the smell of wool oil. However, the working mill has recently had to be relocated for Health and Safety reasons, and now the space has been transformed into the most wonderful shop, stocking clothing made from cloth woven at the locally relocated mill, all sorts of fabulous knitwear, home furnishings and rooms full of fabulous gifts.

Having been warmly welcomed with a glass of wine, Richard gave us a fascinating talk about the history of Cotswold Sheep, and also of the mill. We then took the opportunity to look round the shop, when some members certainly began their Christmas shopping. It also provided us with an opportunity to chat to Richard about wool matters in general, and Cotswold wool in particular, about which he is immensely knowledgeable.

We were then invited to enjoy a delicious array of pate and cheese. It was altogether a wonderfully, relaxed evening, appreciated by all who managed to attend.

The Society would like to thank Richard very much for his generosity; he not only provided us with wine, and delicious eats, but he also gave us his time, and the benefit of his extensive knowledge.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS 2012



Caroline Cunningham 'The Bromham Flock'

*(The message inside reads - 'Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year')*

The Society Christmas cards (148 x 105 mm) are now available from either:

**Sam Furlong – 01386 593663 or Lynne Parkes - 01451 830461.**

The cost is **£4.50** per **pack of 10**, (includes 5 cards of each design) if collected.

**Postage and Packing are extra**, please ask when ordering.

The cards will be available for sale, or collection, at the Winter Social  
(24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at The Westwoods Centre, Northleach)

# CIRENCESTER SHOW AND SALE 2012

Angela Reid

The Society Show and Sale took place on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> August at Cirencester Market under the auspices of Voyce Pullin's Rare and Native Breed Sale. Card grading was in the hands of Richard Mumford and Caroline Cunningham. There was a respectable number of quality Cotswold sheep forward, and with plenty of red cards, and just one yellow card awarded, the standard of sheep was good. The Show took place as usual on the Friday evening with Robert Boodle judging. Breed Champion and the Peter Walwin Challenge Trophy went to Senior Ram, Queenford Jago.

The Sale, which took place the following day was well attended, and there were some keen buyers present. Queenford Jago was first into the sale ring the following day, and achieved the excellent price of 460 guineas, the highest of the day.

The largest class was made up of 20 quality shearling ewes; the majority being from Davina Stanhope's Tingewick flock, and Pat Quinn's Harford flock. The top price paid for a Shearling Ewe was 200 guineas while the average was 147 guineas. 5 excellent Tingewick ewe lambs were also forward, and they averaged 95 guineas.

## Card Grading:

Senior Rams – 3 Forward – 2 Red, 1 Blue

Shearling Rams – 4 Forward - 1 Red, 2 Blue, 1 Yellow

Shearling Ewes – 17 Forward – 14 Red, 3 Blue

Ewe Lambs – 5 Forward – 5 Red



*Angela Reid receiving the Peter Walwin Trophy from Robert Boodle*

# NON COTSWOLD CLASS SHOW RESULTS

## CARDIGAN COUNTY SHOW

### Rare Breed Class

Reserve Champion                      Mr J Flanders

## MONMOUTHSHIRE SHOW

### Interbreed

Longwool Champion                      Mrs C Bateman

### Any Other Longwool

Supreme female                          Mrs C Bateman

Reserve male                                Mrs C Bateman

Reserve male                                Mrs K Kay

Reserve female                              Mr R Mumford

## ROYAL BERKSHIRE

### Longwool Breed

Reserve Champion                      Mr S Parkes

Source : Farmers Guardian



*Steve Parkes with the Reserve Champion Dellboy at the Royal Berkshire Show*

# SHOW RESULTS

## THREE COUNTIES SHOW

### SHEEP CLASSES

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

16<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Judge: Mr A Lyons

#### **Senior Ram** (5 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

#### **Shearling Ram** (7 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

#### **Ram Lamb** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

#### **Senior Ewe** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr C Stacey

#### **Shearling Ewe** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr C Stacey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

#### **Ewe Lamb** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr R Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

#### **Group of Three** (3 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr C Stacey

**Champion:** Miss D Stanhope - Senior Ewe

**Reserve Champion:** Miss D Stanhope – Senior Ram

**Brain Challenge Trophy (Champion):** Miss D Stanhope - Senior Ewe

# NATIONAL RARE & MINORITY BREED SHOW

## SHEEP CLASSES

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

17<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Judge: Mr S Parkes

### Senior Ram (5 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Miss S Furlong & Mr N Hatch

### Shearling Ram (7 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

### Ram Lamb (6 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

### Senior Ewe (6 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

### Shearling Ewe (6 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miss S Furlong & Mr N Hatch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

### Ewe Lamb (6 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr R Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

### Group of Three (3 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss S Furlong & Mr N Hatch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

**Champion:** Mr D Cross - Senior Ram

**Reserve Champion:** Miss D Stanhope - Senior Ewe

**The Bramble Trophy:** Mr D Cross - Senior Ram

# COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW

## SHEEP CLASSES

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

1<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Judge: Mr Bob Palmer

**Senior Ram** (8 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr S Parkes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Shearling Ram** (10 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs A Reid  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ms S Furlong & Mr N Hatch

**Ram Lamb** (14 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs A Reid

**Senior Ewe** (9 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss A Field  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Shearling Ewe** (20 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs A Reid

**Ewe Lamb** (11 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs A Reid  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr R Harvey Long

**Group of Three** (8 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr S Parkes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Wool On Hoof** (10 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Novice** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr E Hannis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr A Evans  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss E Haines

**Young Handler 7 – 11yrs** (5 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr A Evans  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr E Hannis  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr B Hannis

**Young Handler 12 – 16yrs** (4 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr P Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss E Haines  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss Webb

**Champion:** Mr & Mrs N Kay - Shearling Ewe - C12391 – Middlewick Annie

**Reserve Champion:** Miss D Stanhope – Shearling Ewe

**Calcot Shield (Champion):** Mr & Mrs N Kay - Shearling Ewe - C12391 – Middlewick Annie

**Pensham Trophy (Best Opposite Sex):** Miss D Stanhope – Ram Lamb

**Millenium Rose Bowl (Best Senior) :** Mr D Cross – Senior Ram – C12005 – Westcote Izod

**Millenium Cup (Best Shearling) :** Miss D Stanhope – Shearling Ewe

**Millenium Salver (Best Lamb) :** Miss D Stanhope – Ram Lamb

**Merlins Trophy (Champion Wool On The Hoof):** Mr D Cross

## **FLEECE CLASSES**

Nominated Show for Golden Fleece Trophy

1<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Judge: Mr Ian Brooksbank BWMB

**Fleece** (14 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr R Harvey - Long

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

Attendance point awarded to:

Miss A Field, Miss S Furlong & Mr N Hatch, Mr R Jones, Mr & Mrs N Kay,  
Mr S Parkes, Mr & Mrs J Webb

## **STROUD SHOW**

**SHOW CANCELLED DUE TO WET WEATHER**

## **COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Judge: Mr Robert Boodle

**Senior Ram** (2 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

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

**Shearling Ram** (1 Entry)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr J Follows

**Ram Lamb** (0 Entries)

**Senior Ewe** (0 Entries)

**Shearling Ewe** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs P Quinn

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

**Ewe Lamb** (5 Entries)

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

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

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

**Champion:** Hon Mrs A Reid – Senior Ram C11705 Queenford Jago

**Reserve Champion:** Mr J Follows – Shearling Ram C12379 Gannaway Frankel

**Peter Walwin Perpetual Trophy Champion:** Hon Mrs A Reid – Senior Ram

C11705 Queenford Jago

## Sale Results

All entries were card graded.

Only *red card* sheep are eligible to go forward to the show.

*Red Card* - correct sheep.

*Blue Card* - sheep with a minor fault.

*Yellow Card* - sheep with a more serious fault.

*White Card* - an unacceptable sheep.

The card grades and prices of all Cotswolds sold are given below:

<b>Senior Rams</b>	3 Forward: 2 Sold (2 Red Card, 1 Blue Card) Top Price £460.00 : Average Price £320.00
<b>Shearling Rams</b>	4 Forward: 2 Sold (1 Red , 2 Blue , 1 Yellow ) Top Price £200.00 : Average Price £185.00
<b>Ram Lambs</b>	0 Forward: 0 Sold 0 Top Price £0.00 : Average Price £0.00
<b>Senior Ewes</b>	0 Forward: 0 Sold Top Price £0.00 : Average Price £0.00
<b>Shearling Ewes</b>	17 Forward: 16 Sold (14 Red Cards, 3 Blue Cards) Top Price £200.00 : Average Price £148.00
<b>Ewe Lambs</b>	5 Forward: 2 Sold (5 Red Cards) Top Price £105.00 : Average Price £103.00

## COTSWOLD HUNT & FARMERS SHOW

### SHEEP CLASSES

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

19<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Judge: Mr T Jackson

**Senior Ram** (5 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ms S Furlong & Mr N Hatch  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Shearling Ram** (6 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

**Ram Lamb** (7 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ms S Furlong & Mr N Hatch

**Senior Ewe** (6 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Shearling Ewe** (13 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr R Jones

**Ewe Lamb** (5 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss D Stanhope  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr R Jones

**Group of Three** (5 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs J Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Stanhope

**Young Handler 12 – 16yrs** (3 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr P Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miss E Haines  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr J Webb

**Young Handler 7 – 11yrs** (3 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr E Hannis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr R Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr B Hannis

**Champion:** Miss D Stanhope – Senior Ewe

**Reserve Champion:** Miss D Stanhope – Senior Ram

## **BERKELEY SHOW CANCELLED DUE TO WET WEATHER**

## **MORETON IN MARSH SHOW Cotswold Sheep Society National Show**

### **SHEEP CLASSES**

Nominated Show for the Frank Houlton Trophy

1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

Judge: Miss D Stanhope

**Senior Ram** (8 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr S Parkes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross

**Shearling Ram** (6 Entries)  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

3<sup>rd</sup> Ms S Furlong & Mr N Hatch

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

**Ram Lamb** (10 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr D Cross

**Senior Ewe** (12 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr S Parkes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay

**Shearling Ewe** (13 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr S Parkes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

**Ewe Lamb** (11 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr D Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs N Kay

**Group of Three** (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Mr S Parkes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr D Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hon Mrs A Reid

**Champion:** Mr D Cross – Shearling Ram

**Reserve Champion:** Mr S Parkes – Shearling Ewe – C12257 Stowell Ewe

**Tony Foster Challenge Trophy (Champion):** Mr D Cross – Shearling Ram

**The Colburn Cup (Best Senior Ram):** Mr S Parkes – Senior Ram – C11925 Teasey Dellboy

**The Oakhill Cup (Best Shearling Ram):** Mr D Cross - Shearling Ram

**The William Garne Cup (Best Female):** Mr S Parkes – Shearling Ewe – C12257 Stowell Ewe

**The Les Arnold Challenge Trophy (Best Lamb):** Mr D Cross – Ewe Lamb

## COUNCIL CORNER

**Website and Facebook:** Council are delighted that Emma Turner has kindly offered to take over the day to day running of the Society website and Facebook pages. Please do contact her with any suggestions you may have: [cotswoldknits@hotmail.com](mailto:cotswoldknits@hotmail.com).

**Co-options:** Council is very pleased that Emma Turner, Sarah Robinson and Neil Hatch have all agreed to be co-opted onto Council.

**AGM:** Thank you to everyone who supported the AGM at Colesbourne Park in August. Council is very grateful to Sir Henry and Lady Elwes for hosting this event for us. The walk around the Arboretum was fascinating despite the rain and it was a lovely chance to catch up with other Society members. Copies of the minutes will be included in the newsletter prior to the AGM next year.

**Winter Social:** The Winter Social will be held at The Westwood Centre, Bassett Road, Northleach, Cheltenham GL54 3QJ on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6.45pm. Please do come along and support this event as it's always a lovely social occasion and the new Society DVD of the history of the Society will be shown. Please do complete and return the enclosed Booking Form to Sam by 14<sup>th</sup> November. Council have decided that "trailers" of both the original DVD, donated by Pat Quinn, and the one containing the additional interviews filmed earlier this year, will be available on the website. You will be able to purchase copies of both DVDs (£10 each) via Sam Furlong.

**EGM:** Council would like to announce that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held immediately prior to the Winter Social on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Westwood Centre, Bassett Road, Northleach at 6.30 pm. This will be held solely to re-elect Richard Mumford, Margaret Pursch, and Steve Parkes – all duly nominated and seconded by the correct date - onto Council, this having been overlooked at the AGM.

**A "Woolly Event":** We are pleased to announce that we are planning a follow up 'with a difference' to our successful 'Back To Back' event run last year. This 'Woolly Event' will again take place in Alison Garne's wonderful barn in Meysey Hampton, and should not be missed by anyone with an interest in wool and/or Cotswold sheep. The date will be announced shortly on the website. Please do come along and support us. All offers of help with running the day will be much appreciated.

**Christmas Cards:** This year's Christmas cards will be on sale via the Society website shortly. They will also be on sale at the Winter Social. For further details see the advertisement in this Newsletter.

**Flock Book:** We will soon be putting together this year's Flock Book. Advertising in the Flock Book provides excellent value for money and is something well worth considering – if you want to discuss the possibilities, please contact Sam Furlong.

## **MEMBERS**

A number of changes have occurred in recent months and it is felt that members may be interested in these changes and the people involved.

### **Lucinda Foster**

As mentioned in the Editorial, Lucinda has decided to step down as Secretary in order to take up a full time position. She was appointed Secretary five years ago and quickly established herself as being an efficient administrator. Perhaps her lasting legacy was her organisational skill, along with Margaret Pursch, in planning the Back to Back in 2011. We wish her every success in the future .

### **Sam Furlong**

Sam has kindly taken over from Lucinda and to date, as far as I am concerned, a worthy successor. She joined the Society in 2010 and runs the Oakham flock. In the past couple of years she has had some success showing her sheep.

### **Emma Turner**

Emma has now taken over from Angela Reid in maintaining the website and all enquiries should be directed to her. Emma, who joined the Society in 2007 with her Burleigh flock, is probably best known for her articles about “Alfie”

### **Angela Reid**

Angela has taken over from Richard Mumford as Chairman. She joined the Society in 2000 with her Queenford flock and has been on the Council since 2007.

### **Thomas Jackson**

As a result of the proposed sale of his Council owned farm, Thomas and Fiona decided to buy their own in Aberdeen; consequently, for logistical reasons, he has sold his flock of Cotswold sheep. Thomas has been a member of the Society for around 24 years having joined in 1988 and has been a judge, Vice Chairman, Chairman and he has been on Council for a number of years. We wish him and Fiona well in their new life in Scotland.

## **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.

## **RUSKINS MILL COLLEGE, NAILSWORTH**

Ruskins Mill College are holding a Golden Fleece event between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November to celebrate the woollen cloth industry and in particular Cotswold sheep.

Entry is free and the event is open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm

For further information phone 01453 833320

## 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](http://www.hendraveancotswolds.co.uk)

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

### **Miscellaneous**

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

### **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.

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 five ewe lambs

**Mrs Victoria Robbins**, Rose Cottage, Southend, North Nibley, Wotton Under Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7PD

Tel. 01453 543988 or 07711 847392

HAS FOR SALE a senior Harford ram (C10810) and a Tyndale ram lamb (12573)

**Lady Elwes** c/o Margrit Powell, Hartley Farm, Hartley Lane, Coberley, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9QN

Tel. 07884 230767

E-mail : [mpowell@hartleyfarm.co.uk](mailto:mpowell@hartleyfarm.co.uk)

HAS FOR SALE five Colesbourne shearling ewes by Nazareth Barabas (C10209)

### **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.