



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

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Mr. S. Parkes, Mrs. M. Pursch, Mrs. S. Robinson, and Ms E. Turner

Editor

Mr. J. Flanders

This Newsletter is independently edited and readers should be aware that the views expressed within its pages do not necessarily reflect the views held by Council.



Game, set and match to the Cross family

EDITORIAL

John Flanders

This edition of the Newsletter is devoted to the experiences of some of the Young Handlers; having shown for the first time last year I can relate to the thoughts of Rhys – exhausting, but enjoyable.

With lambing in full swing in some parts of the country, although we will not be starting until early March, one of the thoughts on people's minds is the Schmallenberg Virus and the effect this could have upon lambing. Whilst lambing if you think you might have the virus it is wise to get veterinary assistance rather than injure the ewe.

I am also delighted that Woody (Neil) Hatch has kindly volunteered to contribute to The View From Here. His comments make enjoyable and thought provoking reading.

Robert Boodle, in his President's message, refers to the value of showing as a way of improving a member's flock. The advice of seasoned show members is invaluable and many will willingly help new members and suggest ways to enhance their flock. This year the judges for the Flock Competition are Robert Boodle, who has a lifetime working with sheep particularly Cotswolds, and Kate Kay, who has been very successful in the show ring. I would urge new members to enter the competition; even if you do not win, you will have a good idea of ways to improve your flock or husbandry practices. Do not be afraid to ask the judges questions, they will be only too willing to help; the competition is a two way process – use it.

Finally, may I wish everyone a rather belated Happy New Year and for those that show may your walls be filled with red rosettes.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Boodle

New Year letters are traditionally optimistic, and this one should be no different.

So I will quickly pass over the weather and its extremes, the new word in our vocabulary, Schmallenberg, Ash tree die back and who knows what else.

To the members who attended the Winter Social it was a very friendly affair. Winners were presented with the cups, which had been competed for during the showing season. The DVD of the history of how the present Cotswold Sheep Society was reformed was shown to round off the evening. This had been kindly sponsored by Past President, Pat Quinn. It brought together two ex-secretaries of the Society, Rodney Stanford (an assistant editor of The Field magazine and an owner of Cotswold sheep and Longhorn cattle), and Libby Henson who owned the Bemborough flock at the Cotswold Farm Park. They filled in a lot of the detail that only gets lost in time if not recorded properly.

On a personal note, I shall be travelling to Western Australia and New Zealand during February and March and will be taken to stations where I shall see more sheep than I have ever encountered. My hosts will be people who have been students with me at Crickley Barrow and at Bemborough and lodged with us during their stay in England. Both will have helped with the shepherding of the Cotswolds. Never underestimate the value of Christmas cards to keep in touch with on another. Over the years they have returned to stay with us and now it is my turn to visit them.

Just a comment about showing. It is an extremely good way to improve your awareness of your own sheep. There comes a time when you may wish to sell some breeding stock and all animals will command a good price if they are put forward to their best advantage.

An example of this, in my own case, is in connection with another interest of mine, which is keeping bees and selling honey. Since I have been showing honey, I have learnt about presentation. Every jar of honey that I sell needs to be of the quality required for showing.

The same goes for Cotswold sheep, and not only for potential breeding stock, it will also apply to lambs that are for slaughter. They must be of the highest standard, especially if you are planning a box scheme or selling to friends and neighbours.

The best way to ensure the good name of the Cotswolds is to maintain the highest level of stockmanship, and this can come about by showing and competing with the very best.

Looking forward to seeing you in the show ring.

YOUNG HANDLERS

My First Show

Rhys Jones

I got home from school and had to rush to get ready to get down to the Three Counties Show, which took one and a half hours. When I got there it was straight to work, cleaning, feeding and watering the sheep, which took a while. After I prepared my trailer for sleeping, I collapsed into bed.



Next morning I got up early to prepare my lamb and make her look stunning before judging began. At nine o'clock the showing started, I was getting nervous waiting for my turn, then it arrived. We entered the ring and I tried to show her off to the best of my abilities, we had to wait for the judge to make her decision. It seemed a long wait, but it was worth it, we came first. Coming away with a rosette made all the hard work worthwhile.

None of this would have been achieved without all the help and encouragement from Davina, big thanks to her.



But there is one thing after the show I don't need any help with!!!

Lambing Again and My Sheep

Ben Hannis

My sheep are Inky, Blaze, Pearl, and Grace.

Lambing is very adventurous because “ewe” don't know if you are going to get a dead lamb or not. Most people hate Schmallerberg. One of my ewes Blaze had a lamb a few weeks ago it is so pearly white that I called her Pearl.

Inky was my first ever sheep in 2010. When we were watching Lambing Live, Woody suggested that we should get sheep and said we should get something local and because we live in the Cotswolds we decided on Cotswold sheep and because Mum worked for Diane, who is a friend of Lynne and Steve, she then got in touch with Lynne and Steve and Lynne told us about some sheep for sale and we brought 8 ewes and 2 lambs at foot from Angela Reid.

Grace, my 1 ewe that I had in 2010, has not had a lamb this year yet; she is also shared between me, Mum and Woody (Neil)



Ben's lambs

I am going to halter train Pearl so that I can show her and her Mum this year.

Showing Ethan Hannis

Last year's show season started with my ewe Kirsty being 4th at Three Counties in shearling ewe class. We camped overnight on the Saturday and it was very cold and windy so I did not get much sleep; by the end of the day I was very tired, but very happy with Kirsty being placed.

When we are going to a show a lot of work has to be done to get everyone and everything organised. Some times it's an early start! I have a nice collection of rosettes and a sash from Moreton Young Handler, all of these are on display on my bedroom wall.

When my name was announced at the Winter Social I was very surprised. The trophy is on the bookshelf in the living room so that it can be seen by every one who comes to visit. I hope that this show season goes well for me and Kirsty.

This week Kirsty has had a nice ram lamb; I hope to perhaps show him as well as Kirsty this show season. I have made some nice friends through Cotswold Sheep Society and showing I am looking forward to this season's shows.

Showing

Emily Haines

This year has been great fun for me, I was able to go to lots of the shows with Sam and her family, meet lots of really nice people from the Society and was lucky enough to get a Cotswold sheep of my own.

I won a few rosettes this year with Bruce, the ram for Chipping Campden school, and although I didn't win rosettes in all the Young Handles contests, I was able to get some constructive criticism to take with me and improve next time.

As many know for my birthday my parents bought me a Cotswold ewe. I went up to Mr Thomas Jackson's farm and with the help of Sam and Steve Parkes, I bought a beautiful ewe called Benshill Qitarah. I hope to be able to train her and take her to some of the shows and hopefully win some rosettes this year.

I would like to say a big thank you to my parents for the sheep, and to Sam and Woody for keeping her on the farm, and also everyone who has helped me and given me advice with showing.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

Gloucestershire

Neil Hatch

Well, firstly I'd like to wish you all to a happy New year and let's hope the weather feels fit to turn over a new leaf. The sheep all could do with a dry frosty period to harden their feet up, I don't really care now if it's -20C, as long as it doesn't rain! The ewes have all been scanned; vaccinated with Heptavac and have been moved to their pre-lambing pasture. I'd love to say that the lambing shed is tidied out with all the hurdles up ready for the end of this month, but life just doesn't feel complete without a little last minute panic!

The one thing that has perplexed me as we have moved into 2013 is the continued slow hay trade. We have approximately 250 big bales of hay left in the shed, that was well made in a dry week in July (yes, we had one, honest). Dealers continue to tell me that the trade is slow as the traditional buyers in Wales, Scotland etc. managed to make lots this summer, plenty of grass is still on the ground for winter grazing and there has been (at the time of writing) no really severe winter weather. I can't help but worry that the fundamental reason is that there is less and less stock in our green and pleasant land. Driving around the countryside you certainly don't seem to see much out grazing. If this is true, I wonder what the reasons are? I know that lamb prices have fallen from those heights of £80-£90, but if you had offered most farmers the current £60 per lamb a few years back they would have been delirious. The finished cattle trade continues to gradually strengthen, but I do worry as the unsustainable low milk prices doesn't appear to show any sign of climbing significantly, although dairy units have never been traditionally big buyers of hay.

So, if I am right about their being less stock about, what are the reasons? Red tape has to be one, farmers getting bogged down under the ever growing burden of TB testing, movement licences, SFP paperwork, it seems endless. I've just mentioned TB, this isn't just a financial penalty. With the heartbreak and anxiety that dairy and cattle farmers have to face daily with no sign of a sustainable solution, it is surely no surprise that many are jumping ship, ploughing up turf and growing cereals etc. But what about young blood coming into farming?

The link between poor hay trade and young farmers seems tenuous, but bear with me. The number of young entrants into farming is at an historical low. I'm 34, and when I think about everybody else that I know in the local farming community, although approaching middle age(ish..), I would be in the lower quarter of the age group. This is worrying because the younger people are not there to receive the skill sets that a passing generation will take with them. Livestock, in particular sheep, have always been seen as a way for young entrants to get into farming in their own right. Grassland is cheaper to rent, and aside from the stock, the capital required is so much cheaper than arable and thus raising the funds required is far more manageable. It has to be said also that it sometimes seems chasing sheep and cattle around is probably best done by younger legs anyway, although I know a few on older legs that might show the young 'uns' up!

Also a large amount of youngsters in my generation (myself included) were dissuaded from entering farming during the horrendous nineties and early noughties. Arable farming parents were worn down with the appalling commodity prices and livestock producing family farms were dealing with the horrors of BSE, Foot and

Mouth and then TB. Mothers and fathers were probably justified in encouraging their offspring into other industries.

So what to do about encouraging and keeping young entrants in farming? The young blood coming into farming seems to be getting a lot of air time at the moment, even getting coverage on Channel 4. This does help with losing agriculture its 'Swede gnawer's image, but will farming ever be trendy? I hope not! We all also have a duty to support younger entrants coming into agriculture. Those who can financially, should do so but that is another matter altogether; for the majority of us it will be the educational and emotional support that will be so crucial to youngsters who need to make the transition from a bit of, say, tractor driving, or sheep handling, to full time farmers or farm workers.

This is one thing I could never fault the Cotswold Sheep Society for, and with Sam and I having two young boys, it adds another dimension to our involvement in the Society, whether it's the incredibly well supported Young Handler's competition or the multitude of activities for young Society members. Exhibitors showing on the summer show circuit also seem to have all the time in the world from the endless barrage of enquiries from people who are naive not only about Cotswolds, but sheep and sometimes farming in general. I find the Society's members attitude so refreshing, many other farming groups could learn a thing or two from you all. So Cotswold Sheep Society members, continue to go forth, educate the future young farmers of the world. I've got some hay that needs selling!

West Wales

John Flanders

Since the last Newsletter the weather here, as with the rest of the country has been wet, to say the least. Thankfully the drainage works that we carried out a couple of years ago has worked efficiently even though the fields were ponding in a few places after heavy rain, but within a couple of days with no rain the puddles had disappeared. Nevertheless, after having more than enough rain we decided to house the ewes as soon as possible after scanning: they were delighted.

With the exception of a couple of Teeswaters, lambing is due to commence at the beginning of March and we scanned in early January. The result was 180% and no passes; this is the highest we have ever had, now the hard part is having to remember what I did – always a problem! According to the farming press it seems that we are bucking the trend since it appears that scanning is generally down this year due to

the wet weather and poor quality grazing. Unfortunately one of the most biddable ewes aborted for the second time in two years, not for any other reason other than she cannot go to term. I was tempted to take her to the mart, but I decided in the end that, every year, the lambs needed a matriarch to look up to and for this reason she should stay – well it was the best excuse for not selling her that I could think of!! This decision caused considerable consternation to our vet who could see no point in keeping a useless sheep. Last year one of my old ewes from the Meysey flock produced, in my view, a stunning ewe lamb which every time I see her I admire. So, this year having originally thought about culling the ewe we decided to reprieve her and put her to the same tup I the hope that history will repeat itself twice, because this year she is carrying twins – last year it was a single.

Thankfully we were able to make a goodly quantity of haylage in the Summer and there is more than enough for our needs so we shall be able to sell some later to a neighbour who has beef cattle.

With tugging over, and after being in close proximity to each other for a night we returned all the rams back to their field, but one of the young Cotswold rams, which we were in two minds whether or not to keep, took a dislike to the new Teeswater tup and after a day of aggravation we decided to separate them. The Cotswold was going to the local mart, but was saved in the nick of time and is now to be used.

ENTROPION

John Flanders

Entropion is a condition in which the lower eyelid of one or both eyelids turns inwards. This causes the eyelashes to brush against the eyeball, causing damage to the cornea. The constant irritation produces a keratitis or inflammation of the cornea which, if untreated, can make the lamb blind.

It has been suggested that the affliction is hereditary, but in my experienced this is not the case.

Symptoms

Affected lambs have watery eyes, with tears running down their face. As the condition progresses the lambs may partially close their eyes and the way they hold their head indicates the eye is painful and vision impaired.

Treatment

There are broadly four methods of remedying this affliction namely: pinching the eyelid; injecting penicillin into the eyelid; stitching the eyelid; or stapling it. **However, before carrying out any of these procedures it is essential that you consult your vet and seek his/her advice.** My personal approach is to use a 'skin stapler' obtained from our vet, and use a staple to pinch the excess skin of the lower eyelid so that the lid lies in the correct position. I remove the staple about 24 hours later. Your vet will demonstrate the procedure.

LIVER FLUKE

John Flanders

As result of the wet Summer and Autumn the incidence of fluke has increased substantially and recent reports suggest that acute liver fluke cases are up 1000% in the last quarter of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. Accordingly this article is written to draw to members' attention the problems associated with fluke in sheep; it sets out the background, types of disease, and the preventative treatment that I have adopted. It should be stressed that if members believe they have a fluke problem advice should be sought from their local vet. The treatment mentioned in this article is the one that suits my flock; it is not necessarily the one that would suit other flocks in other parts of the country.

Background

Fluke is caused by a parasite *fasciola hepatica*, which requires a semi-aquatic mud snail as an intermediate host thus the occurrence of fluke is directly related to rainfall, but in addition temperature is important. In recent years the wetter summers have increased the incidence of fluke and, whilst the west of the country has traditionally been the focus of the disease, it has spread to the east thereby affecting areas which had previously been regarded as fluke free. It is not only waterlogged land that is vulnerable, pasture near rivers, streams and ponds are also susceptible.

In addition to rainfall, temperature plays an important part, in that below temperatures of 10 C the fluke eggs shed in the dung do not develop and hatch into infective stages. Snail reproduction and development of the fluke stages within the snail are also curtailed. Thus, within the U.K. the life cycle is only fully completed between May and October.

Types of Disease

Fluke occurs in three forms namely acute, sub-acute, and chronic with the latter being the most common.

Acute This happens when massive numbers of infective cysts are ingested from herbage over a short period, which can cause severe tissue damage by the migration of the fluke through the liver resulting in sudden death before eggs appear in the dung. This generally occurs in autumn/early winter.

Sub-acute Cysts are ingested over a longer period and the liver contains immature adult flukes. The disease occurs in late autumn/early winter

Chronic This is associated with a prolonged intake of moderate numbers of infective cysts resulting in the accumulation of adult fluke in the bile ducts. Chronic disease is mainly found in winter/early spring and is exacerbated by poor nutrition.

Treatment

The approach I adopt is as follows, but I would stress that members should take advice from their veterinary surgeon to ascertain their particular requirements

Late April/May Dose adult sheep with a flukicide

October Dose all sheep with a flukicide.

January Dose all sheep with a flukicide

The favoured drug is triclabendazole as it treats young immature fluke.

However, whilst anthelmintic resistance is now widespread on many sheep farms, resistance to flukicides is currently at a fairly low level. Nevertheless, it is important to avoid, if possible, using one chemical family of flukicide year after year and veterinary advice should be sought to establish alternative products. This is something I shall be doing next year.

Comment

Living in West Wales there is a greater possibility of contracting fluke, but by dosing the flock in the manner mentioned, the disease has been controlled.

Recent advice from SCOPS says farmers need to start planning ahead now to minimise the impact of liver fluke next season:-

- 1 Reduce the amount of pasture contamination this spring by using a treatment that kills any adult liver fluke that have survived in the sheep. Consult your vet or adviser to make sure you choose the right product.
- 2 Implement management controls where possible. These include identifying the high risk areas on the farm and putting measures in place

that will avoid them. Practical steps include fencing off wet areas and attending to leaking troughs, pipes and drainage.

- 3 Plan to test that your flukicide is working. On high risk farms where triclabendazole (TCBZ) has been heavily relied on it is vital to check that it is still working effectively. While there is some resistance to this treatment it remains an important weapon against immature fluke and SCOPS is concerned that many people have mistaken re-infection this winter with treatment failure.

More information can be found at www.scops.org.uk.

AGISTED FLOCKS

Richard Broad of the RBST

With 2013 being the 40th anniversary of the RBST, I was looking back at the years and how breeds such as the Cotswold have grown. Member numbers have increased, and the breed has moved out of the Combined Flock book and is now spread over a larger geographical area. The price of wool just needs to keep improving and people might start to make some money from their sheep!

The RBST has just purchased a flock of Leicester Longwool ewe lambs for an agisted flock at Wimpole Home Farm. The Leicester is in Category 2 with less than 500 registered ewes bred pure. The RBST have a number of agisted stock all over the UK. The way agistment works is that RBST buy the original stock but their offspring are owned by the people looking after the original stock for us. We then can have animals back after a period of time to start another new breeder.



Wimpole has a history of keeping longwool sheep breeds and had a Leicester flock in the past. The RBST are able to advise on the breeding of the flock, and it also contains some rare bloodlines in the breed. We also have agisted stock such as Vaynol cattle in Lockerbie and Lincolnshire; Norfolk Horns at Easton College in Norfolk; and some Northern Dairy Shorthorns in Staffordshire. Animals were selected by using an in-breeding co-efficient within the breed. Two of the lambs were less than 2% related to the rest of the breed. These rare bloodlines are then able to be expanded and also using them more widely reduces the inbreeding level in the breed.

NEEDLESTICK INJURIES

John Flanders

The Farmers Guardian recently highlighted the dangers associated with using hypodermic needles. The most common reasons for injuries, which can lead to amputation of affected fingers, bacterial infection, and local allergic reactions, are accidental self-injection through handling restless animals and/or unsafe needle practices.

The paper suggested five points on needle safety:

- 1 Use sharps bins, which have needle remover notches to avoid manual removal of needles
- 2 Replace sharps bins promptly; the maximum fill line should never be exceeded
- 3 Consider using automatic re-sheathing safety devices
- 4 Do not use your teeth to removed needle shields
- 5 Do not, wherever possible, re-sheath needles

CROSSING COTSWOLD SHEEP

John Flanders

In the Autumn edition of the Newsletter it is planned to run a number of articles by members on their experiences of crossing Cotswold sheep.

If anyone would like to contribute please free to do so. Ideally articles should be about 500 words in length and provide an indication of whether the cross was

successful e.g. did the lambs finish earlier or was the wool better. Any contribution whether handwritten or sent by e-mail would be welcome.

Also, a Danielle Yocom, 6031 East Main Street Box 308, Columbus, Ohio 43213 U.S.A. E-mail 370pony@gmail.com contacted me to enquire where she could obtain some Valais Black Nosed sheep; since this is a Cotswold cross if anyone is able to help could they please contact Danielle directly at the above address/e-mail.

THE CSS SPINNING CHALLENGE
and
MEYSEY HAMPTON VILLAGE FAYRE
Sunday 9th June 2013
Angela Reid

Two years have passed since our 'Back to Back' Challenge when we had to shear a sheep, spin the wool, and knit a jumper in a day. So this year another 'Woolly Event' is being planned. The CSS Spinning Challenge will take place on Sunday 9th June, and as before, it will be at Villars Farm, Meysey Hampton, by kind permission of Alison Garne.

This year's event will take the form of three teams of spinners, pitting themselves against one another. The Challenge will be to spin and knit an item (still to be decided) in less than a day. The fastest team will win.

There will also be demonstrations of sheep shearing, wool dyeing, hurdle making and other rural crafts, as well as stalls selling a variety of woollen goods, and fleeces too. For anyone with any interest in sheep, or wool, then this will be the place to be. And you won't go hungry either, as there will be refreshments available through the day at Villars Farm, and tea and cakes will be served during the afternoon in the village hall.

However this day is not just for sheep and wool enthusiasts, as the event is being held in conjunction with Meysey Hampton village to raise funds for the church, as well as for The Cotswold Sheep Society. The church will be hosting a Flower Festival with a 'woolly' theme, many of the village gardens will be open, and as if that's not enough, there will be a Scarecrow Trail through the village, and an art exhibition too.

We hope that combining our event with the village Fayre will bring the public 'flocking' to Meysey Hampton! So please do put the date in your diary and come along.

For further information, or to become involved with the running of the event, contact

Margaret Pursch at margaretpursch@btinternet.com or telephone her on 01285 851526.

For up to date news on this event over the coming months, do keep an eye on the Society website.

2012 WINTER SOCIAL

Angela Reid

The Winter Social was held at The Westwood Centre in Northleach. It was a most enjoyable evening and well attended in spite of the atrocious weather conditions, which had resulted in widespread flooding. The guests received a warm welcome with a glass of 'special recipe' mulled wine concocted, and kindly provided, by Ian Reid. As usual members had brought with them a wide variety of delicious dishes, while Richard Mumford and Robert Boodle carved the ham and turkey with their customary skill.



Cake for the Winter Social made by the Robinson family

After dinner Angela Reid (Chairman) thanked all those who had worked so hard to make the night a success, the long list included Margaret Pursch, Lynne Parkes, Sam Furlong and Sarah Robinson. Angela presented them, and Lucinda Foster, with baskets of cyclamen, or roses, as small tokens of the Society's gratitude. Lucinda was also thanked for the years she had spent dealing so efficiently, and enthusiastically, with Society business during her time as Secretary. The basket of flowers was given in addition to the Cotswold lambskin given to her at her last Council meeting. Thomas Jackson, who is moving to Aberdeen, was presented with a bottle of whiskey in recognition of his many years hard work promoting Cotswold sheep.

There was the first showing of the 2nd DVD in 'The History of the Society' series filmed earlier in the year at Lower Harford Farm. It provided a fascinating insight into those perilous days when the Cotswold was on the verge of extinction.

The evening ended with the raffle and as always thanks must go to all those members and guests who so generously provided the prizes.

During the evening the trophies from Moreton Show were presented by Davina Stanhope. Robert Boodle (President) then awarded the following prizes:

The Trophies won at the Society Show, Cirencester

The Champion Flock Slate (for scoring the most points at the Society show) went to Derek Cross for his Westcote Flock.

The Crook donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. Flanders (for the Best Home Bred Sheep at the Society Show) went to Norman and Kate Kay.

The Frank Houlton Trophy

The Frank Holton Trophy is awarded to the member who scores the most points over eight shows – The Three Counties: The Native and Rare Breeds Show, Malvern: The Cotswold Sheep Society Show, Cirencester: Stroud Show: Berkeley Show: The Society Show and Sale, Cirencester: The Cotswold Hunt and Farmers Show, Andoversford: Moreton in Marsh Show.

1st – Miss D Stanhope 2nd – Mr D Cross 3rd – Mrs A Reid

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 and Rare Breeds Show,

Malvern: The Society Show, Cirencester: Stroud Show.

1st – Miss D Stanhope 2nd – Mr R Harvey Long 3rd – Mr D Cross



Phillip Cross and Ben Hannis with their Young Handlers prizes

The Frank Williams Trophy

The Frank Williams Trophy is awarded for outstanding service to the Society. Members nominate someone who in their view fulfils this criteria and the final winner is decided by Council. This year Alison Garne received the trophy for her enthusiastic support of the Society over the years, and in particular for all the hard work she put into the immensely successful raffle, which the Society ran last year.

ERIC FREEMAN

John Flanders

Eric Freeman has done it again, but this time it is the Marsh Christian Lifetime Achievement Award of the RBST; members will recall that Eric also recently received the FWAG Lifetime Achievement Award.

As most members will know, Eric is a Gloucestershire farmer, broadcaster and raconteur who promotes, endorses and encourages others to preserve and maintain our agricultural heritage. He staunchly supports traditional methods of farming and

the conservation of rare and native breeds of livestock particularly Gloucester cattle, Cotswold sheep, and Gloucester Old Spot pigs. He was a founder member, along with Joe Henson, of the RBST.

The award is a testament to Eric's devotion to rare breeds and is richly deserved.

SBV SURVEY UPDATE

The Schmallenburg Virus has been well publicised in the press over a number of weeks, but the full extent of its impact has yet to be assessed and in this respect the National Sheep Association (NSA) have asked shepherds, whether they are members of the NSA or not, to complete a 'Lamb Crop' survey so that its geographical extent and impact on the sheep industry can be fully analysed, and a policy formulated to address ways of tackling the virus in future. The survey is also supported by EBLEX, AHVLA and the NFU, among other bodies. Vital information on the spread of Liver Fluke through the UK flock will also be captured..

The survey can be found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WWHBNC5> . It should be completed when you have finished lambing – if you are lambing more than one flock, you should complete a survey after each flock is lambed - the intention is to publish any 'trends' each month. The survey will be online until the end of May.

Phil Stocker, Chief Executive of the NSA, has agreed that any CSS members, who do not have internet access, can phone the NSA office (01684 892661) and complete the survey that way instead.

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

COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY

POSTCARDS (Pastels & Photo)



Cotswold Studies



Cotswold Lambs



Ewe & Lamb



Lamb & Daffodils



Cotswold Ewe



Cotswolds by Tree



Ewe in Field



Shearling Ewe

NOTELETS



Postcards in assorted sets of 10 – £3.99 + p&p

Notelets in packs of 10 (5 of each design) + envelopes

£4.99 + p&p

You can now place your order via www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

Or contact Lynne Parkes on 01451 830461

COUNCIL CORNER

COT Numbers: Please could members very kindly send any unused COT tags (the 'backing' tag) back to Lynne Parkes; this will considerably reduce the cost to the Society of future sets of tags.

Newsletter PDF: Would any members who would be happy to have their Newsletters sent to them by email as a PDF file, please contact the Secretary.

Raffle: Following the very successful raffle run by the Society in 2011, we intend to run another one this year. As before, we will launch the raffle at the Spinning Challenge on 9th June at Meysey Hampton. We would be very grateful for any donations of prizes. Please contact the Secretary for further information. The raffle will be drawn at Moreton Show.

Cotswold Sculptures: Members might be interested to know that an artist, Karen Hilliard, has been commissioned by the NHS to create a sculpture of Cotswold sheep for a North Gloucestershire Hospital. She visited Jo Attwooll and studied her sheep. Karen has a Facebook page on which she has been posting photos of her work in progress - so if you want to see how she's getting on, logon to Facebook and find her at 'Karen Hilliard Artist'.

Fox Lamps: Steve Parkes has been given a Fox Lamp by the manufacturers to try out near his lambing pens. The lamp has a flickering light, which is intended to deter foxes from approaching the pens. Steve has had no trouble with foxes since installing the lamp. For further information please contact Steve.

Email Addresses: Please could you check that you have given the Secretary your current email address.

Flock Competition: There will be a Flock Competition this year. It will take place during July. The judges will be Kate Kay and Robert Boodle. The Entry Form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Whether you are new to keeping Cotswolds or have been keeping them for years, whether you have a few sheep, or many, please do consider entering. It will be a wonderful opportunity to show off your flock, and discuss your sheep in detail with two extremely enthusiastic breed experts!

Website and Society Merchandise: The Society's postcards and notelets can now

be bought via our website – there is an Order Form on the ‘Society Shop’ page and you can pay through PayPal – see the advertisement elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Frank Houlton: Council have agreed that as members are unlikely to have their show sheep at the Show and Sale, that this show should no longer be a qualifying show for the Frank Houlton Trophy.

Golden Fleece: Moreton in Marsh show will now be a qualifying show for the Golden Fleece trophy.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

The Fibre Festival, Chipping Norton: 4th May. This is the first festival run by FIBREWORKS (Knit and Crochet studio). It will take place in Chipping Norton Town Hall from 10am till 4pm. The Society will have a stand there, please do come along and support us, and the event, if you possibly can.

The CSS Spinning Challenge and Meysey Hampton Village Fayre: The Spinning Challenge will be held at Villars Farm, Meysey Hampton, by the kind permission of Alison Garne on Sunday 9th June. More details of this important ‘not to be missed’ event are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. For updates over the coming months – please keep an eye on the ‘Events’ pages on the website.

Sherborne Castle Country Fair and Rare Breeds Show: 27th May. Sheep Classes include : Primitive, Shetlands, Heath/Hillbred, Portland, Shortwool, Longwool, Wool on the Hoof, Fleeces, Young handler. Entry forms from Ruth Summerley Tel : 01935 428405 or by email from dorset.rarebreeds@yahoo.co.uk or downloaded from the website www.sherbornecountryfair.com Closing date for entries: 30 April 2013

The Royal Bath and West Show: 29th May /1st June. This is the 150th Anniversary of the show. They will be celebrating past and present shows. Cotswolds featured in the first show, and the organisers are keen to see Cotswolds there again this year.

The Great Yorkshire Show: 9th/11th July. This will celebrate their 40th Anniversary, and there will be a show for all breeds of sheep on the RBST Watch List, including Cotswolds, which are currently in the ‘At Risk’ category.

The AGM: This will be held on Sunday 28th July 2013 at Burghfield House, Bourton on the Water (access opposite 'Birdland' only).

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

The proposed programme is as follows:

10.45am - Welcome with coffee/tea
11.00am - Flock Visit
12.30pm – 'Bring and Share' Lunch
2.00pm – AGM
3.00pm – Tea and Cakes

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

Show and Sale, Cirencester Market: 2nd and 3rd August. We hope there will be a good entry of sheep for the Show and Sale, but even if you are not selling or buying any sheep, please do come along to the BBQ after the show on the Friday evening for a relaxed, social evening. More details to follow in the June Newsletter.

The Cotswold Hunt and Farmers Show, Andoversford – We regret that we have been informed that this Show will no longer be taking place, either this year, or in the future.

2013 Winter Social: This will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2013 at the Westwood Centre, Bassett Road, Northleach. Please do make a note of this very important event in your diaries!

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

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 Steve Pannell

Tel.: 01608 651301 or 07983 326020

HAS FOR SALE two shearling rams out of Bramble Morgan

Eleanor Martin

Tel.: 07971 735812

E-mail : filkins.cotswolds@gmail.com

HAS FOR SALE :

11 mature in-lamb breeding Ewes - not scanned, but 100% in lamb last year. Lambs due mid to end of April. £150 per head ONO

10 Ewe lambs - not in lamb. All sired by Tingewick Centurion who can be seen with us. £100 per head ONO

Mrs Josephine Smith

Tel.: 01454 261405 (Evenings)

HAS FOR SALE one ram (Huntentun Larch C12386), born 2011

WANTED:

Danielle Yocom of 6031 East Main Street Box 308, Columbus, Ohio 43213.

E-mail : 370pony@gmail.com

IS WANTING some Valais Black Nosed sheep

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.