



Cotswold Sheep Society Newsletter

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Council Officers

Chairman – Miss D. Stanhope Vice-Chairman – Mr J. Webb
Secretary - Mrs. S. Webb Treasurer - Mrs. L. Parkes

Council Members

Mr. D. Cross, Mrs. C. Cunningham, The Hon. Mrs A. Reid
Mr. S. Parkes, Mrs. M. Pursch, and Mr. J. Dale

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.



EDITORIAL

John Flanders

This edition of the Newsletter includes a number of articles, which hopefully will be of interest to members including changes in respect of the transport of animals, and for those living in Wales the introduction of Quarantine Units.

In recent years one of the perennial problems has been the incidence of fluke and I am grateful to Davina for asking John Hemmingway of Shropshire Farm Vets to write an article on the subject in a manner, which relates to those with smaller flocks.

Jean Fearn has very kindly written a piece about her flock and the successes she has had at her local shows. Although the majority of members live in or close to the Cotswolds a significant number do not and it is people like Jean who promote the breed and bring our sheep to the attention of others. When we show, people always seem amazed at the size of the Cotswolds; they see them on Countryfile but fail to appreciate how big they are. Whilst it is enjoyable to enter a show it is also an opportunity to let the public see native, rare breeds.

Once again Kate Elliott has expressed her very valid thoughts about the Winter Social; it is a very enjoyable occasion and, as I live in west Wales, it gives me the chance to have a weekend away and meet other members. If you have not been to the Winter Social, please do come, you may well enjoy it!!

With that I wish you all a successful lambing and may 2017 bring you a plethora of red rosettes (that is if you show), and if not plenty of nice sweet hay, which is surely the best sign of a good summer.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judy Wilkie

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2017

This is my last year as President of the Society and it has been a very great honour to hold the position for 3 years

The show season of 2016 has flown by and we have celebrated our 125th anniversary during the year.

We have had a good summer catching up with each other at the shows and social gatherings. It is certainly something to look forward to over the winter. The days usually start and finish in the dark and everything seems to take a bit longer and most of us are now either lambing or preparing for this which is one of the most important times of the year.

We own an old shepherds hut, which came from the farm about a mile and a half away. It is in fact a granary with no windows made by Reeves of Bratton so is smaller (and was cheaper to buy) than the shepherds huts of the same period. It was one of a pair but I was told that the other one was burnt out in a rick yard fire when the flames ran up the steps and destroyed it years ago.

The shepherds in those days had a very hard life and we are so lucky with our waterproof clothing and boots, the availability of modern veterinary knowledge using modern preventative medicines and treatments. Many of us have electric light where we lamb our ewes and if not bright modern torches and in most places there is a water tap near by and that is just to mention the modern basic facilities.

I often think back to lambing outside as a farm student in the 1950s and of course for hill farmers today conditions are still very harsh. Those of us who lamb under cover or in small sheltered paddocks have a much easier life.

My first Cotswold sheep were bought from Frank Williams in 1990 and my small commercial flock was replaced by Cotswolds over several years. I used to show my sheep but then family commitments prevented that. My nine years on Council were very interesting and the Society is continuing to move forward with our council members working so hard to keep everything running smoothly. We owe them all our grateful thanks and we could not run the Society without them.

We also must thank all who work so hard for the society during the year at the shows the sale and the social events.

If anyone can spare an hour (or more) to help the Society in any way such as talking to people on the stand, making tea and coffee, helping to set up and take down tents and signs at the end of the day, selling and folding raffle tickets or any other jobs please do volunteer

ERIC FREEMAN – DVD

John Flanders

A couple of years ago a DVD was made of the life of Eric Freeman, a past president of the Society and staunch supporter of rare breeds.

The DVD is still available at a cost of £12 p&p included. If anyone would like a copy please send a cheque to Tish Rickard at Baytons Farm, Gloucester Road, Upleadon, near Newent, GL18 1EH together with their address; the cheque should be made payable to 'Eric Freeman'.

I bought a copy when it was first available and I can recommend it to members; it is lovely to hear a real countryman talking about the countryside

WINTER SOCIAL - 2016

Angela Reid

Once again the Winter Social was held in the Westwood Centre at Northleach. There was a good turnout of members and their families, and a nice mix of long-standing and new members.



Members enjoying the Winter Social dinner

As always Margaret Pursch and her sister Frances Whiteman, had turned the hall into a wonderfully welcoming venue and the tables looked spectacular with their Christmas centrepieces. Ian Reid very kindly provided the guests with a warming glass of mulled wine on arrival.

Thanks must go to Caroline Cunningham for supplying the delicious turkey crowns

so efficiently carved by Richard Mumford. Thanks must also go to everyone who contributed to the feast; you are all so generous with your time and skill – there was a wonderful display of salads and desserts of all kinds - the evening would not have been such a success without all your delicious contributions! Another ingredient adding to the evening's success was the highly efficient and enthusiastic kitchen team, brilliantly organised by Margaret Pursch and Lynne Parkes.



'Anyone for a swig!'

Fellow members sampling Steve Parkes many homemade slow and fruit gins at the Winter Social.

When dinner was over our Chairman, Davina Stanhope, gave a short speech thanking everyone for coming and giving a brief review of the Society's year. Several members had sent their apologies including the Society's Life President, Joan Colburn, who much regretted she could not be present owing to ill health. Davina then asked the Society's President, Judy Wilkie to present the following trophies:

Champion Flock at the Society Show: Davina Stanhope. Runner up: Steve Parkes

Crook for the Best Home Bred Sheep at the Society Show presented by John and Jan Flanders:
Davina Stanhope

Frank Houlton Trophy, presented to the person gaining most points at nominated

shows during 2016 that hold Cotswold Sheep classes:

1. Davina Stanhope
2. Derek Cross
3. The Wheeler Family

Golden Fleece Trophy, presented to the person gaining most points in Fleece classes at nominated shows during 2016:

1. Davina Stanhope
2. Rhys Jones
3. Derek Cross

Child and Novice Handler classes at nominated shows during 2016:

Age 7yrs - 11yrs

1. Amelia Gittings
- Equal 2. William Gittings & William Walker

Age 12yrs - 16yrs

1. Ellie Moore

The Frank Williams Trophy: This beautiful trophy is awarded each year to someone, not necessarily a member, who is thought to have made a substantial contribution to the Society over a number of years. Members' nominations are sent in to Council who then make the final decision as to the winner. This year Ian Brooksbank of the British Wool Marketing Board was awarded the trophy. Ian has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Society, has judged many of our Fleece Competitions, and has always been generous with his time and expertise, informing members about the properties of Cotswold wool and guiding them in selecting and handling fleeces. While Ian was not able to be at the Winter Social, he was thrilled to be awarded the trophy, which is now on display at the BWMB headquarters.

Following the presentation of the trophies, the raffle was drawn. There was an impressive array of prizes, ranging from a 'Freezer Ready Lamb' to jars of Robert Boodle's delicious Cotswold Honey. Again members must be thanked for their generosity – the raffle certainly made a major contribution to the financial success of the event. Altogether the evening made around £600 – a much needed, and much appreciated contribution to Society funds.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE WINTER SOCIAL

Kate Elliott

I'm afraid I have another rant for the membership, following my last one about members failing to participate in the business of the AGM.

As a breed society we are very lucky to have a fairly localised breed. That means that we can undertake activities that other breed societies cannot, simply because their members are too widespread. That in turn means that we can be a very close-knit society in which everyone knows everyone else and it is easy for newcomers to get to know the old hands who really understand the breed and to get the best of advice for their problems.

One of our longstanding events is the Winter Social, which we can use to renew friendships at leisure and to keep in touch during the slack season. We have time to get to know others in the breed, to ask questions, to make plans for next year and just relax in the company of like-minded people. Many of us have found it to be an invaluable opportunity to get to know important members, as well as a good evening out. We are the envy of other breed societies which would like to do something like that but cannot because they are too widespread (try just finding a convenient venue for the Leicester AGM).

Yet in recent years the number of people attending the Winter Social has declined slowly. This year there were virtually no new members, those attending being the members who have come for many years and who are gradually becoming too old to look after sheep. We all come because we would not miss it for the world, but we are also aware that there is an element of duty to it – you belong to a society and so it is incumbent upon you to attend its meetings, just as when we began in rare breeds you did not have a choice about whether you showed or not. You did, because if you did not nobody would see the sheep and want to own some. Now it seems that people just don't care.

Joining any society brings with it obligations to try to fulfil the society's objects. I do not understand what the problem is when doing so is fun anyway. But if each generation does not do its bit to join in and learn from the previous one things gradually go downhill and we lose the sheep and the work of many good people in keeping them going. Up to about ten years ago those of us who showed and exhibited our sheep were extremely worried that there was nobody to take over. We would have liked to ease up, but we went on showing round the country because

nobody else would take on that task. Luckily we have recently seen, in the nick of time, a number of youngsters appear who love showing and owning their sheep and so we feel more relaxed about that. But there are many young adults who are members and never attend events. Why do you bother having pedigree and rare breed sheep? Why not just have a few nondescript crossbreds if you are not going to bring them out or use society events to increase your own knowledge? How are people to discover the quality of your stock and how can you sell your stock into the best flocks if they can't see them?

I look forward to seeing many more young members at the AGM, the Winter Social, the CSS Show, Cirencester barbecue and sale, etc. Remember that if you don't use it you lose it, and one day you will turn round and the society will be gone and you are on your own. Join in, prevent that from happening and allow the society to progress.

QUARANTINE UNITS

John Flanders

As from spring 2017 the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) are giving farmers the opportunity to choose between setting-up a Quarantine Unit (QU) or continuing to adhere to the six day standstill rule.

The key principles of QUs are

- Biosecurity and practical requirements must be met to prevent the introduction and spread of disease
- QUs must be certified by a Certification Body, accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. A fee will be charged for this service.
- Animals must remain in a QU for six days before they are moved to the main holding. Different rules, similar to those for approved isolation facilities, will apply to show movements
- QUs will be allocated a unique CPH number and movements into and out of QUs must be reported via EIDCymru
- Farmed holdings can have up to two QUs which can be indoors and /or outdoors
- QUs will be subject to unannounced in-use inspections by the APHA

For further information please contact WAG

NEWSLETTER

Angela Reid

John Flanders has very kindly taken back the editing of this and the next newsletter as Mark Pettitt sadly no longer has the time to do it. We now need someone to take on the role of Editor on a longer term basis. There are just three newsletters to put together each year. This is an important way for the Society and its members to communicate. If you want to find out more, please do contact the Secretary, or John Flanders directly.

KEEPING COTSWOLD SHEEP

Jean Fearn

Jean Fearn, who lives in Derbyshire, supports the local shows and does very well with her Cotswold Sheep. She has been kind enough to share her experiences with her sheep.

“Since I started keeping Cotswold sheep in 2002 I have had much enjoyment out of showing at local shows. My first Cotswold sheep, two ewes, were purchased from Brian Armit followed by a ewe lamb from Keith Hazelhurst, both breeders being in Derbyshire. All were excellent stock.

I owe much of my success to Darley Moor Snowstorm whom I bred in 2004 from Doubla George and Thornhill Dianthus. I took him along to Melton Mowbray Rare Breed Show and Sale but was unable to sell him, which in retrospect was the making of my flock.

Over the years I have won 340 rosettes and have the beams on my ceiling covered in them. One of the reasons for this large collection is that my friend and helper Ernest Twyford, who I could not manage without, will enter two sheep in every class, this does take rather a lot of preparation, halter breaking etc.

This year I gained three first rosettes at Ashover Show with my ram Ensor, shearling Pansy and Tingewick Bethan 1; Bethan being awarded the Brian Armit Salver for the second year running for the Champion Female. At Ashbourne Show Bethan came 1st as did my ewe lamb, Narcissis. At Hope Show my ram lamb, Neptune, came first and was awarded Champion Longwool. I took my ram lamb, Darley Moor Neptune, to Chelford Rare Breed Sale, and although he was placed first and Champion Longwool, I brought him home as the Judge said that he was too good to sell, his wool being uniform from back to front and having very good conformation.



Darley Moor Neptune

Having reflected on the year, my sheep won a first place in every class, which is very pleasing. I do not know how much longer I will be able to continue with my sheep as Ernest is not very well and I am now 72, but I will go on for as long as I can and all the praise must go to my sheep”.

ROBIN LEACH

John Flanders

For those who are not aware Robin Leach died late last year after a long illness.

He was an avid supporter of Cotswold sheep and served on Council for many years until he was taken ill. On the few occasions I met him I found him helpful and a pleasure to talk to.

Rather belatedly our condolences go to his family

DECIDING ON A PRODUCT TO TREAT FLUKE

John Hemmingway – Shropshire Farm Vets

There is always much confusion around which product is most appropriate to use against fluke, as the recommendations change throughout the year, and even very year on year for the same period.

The distinction between flukicides arises because different drugs kill different stages

of the fluke life cycle, and using a drug which is *ineffective* against the type of fluke present in your animals at that time is clearly wasted time and money.

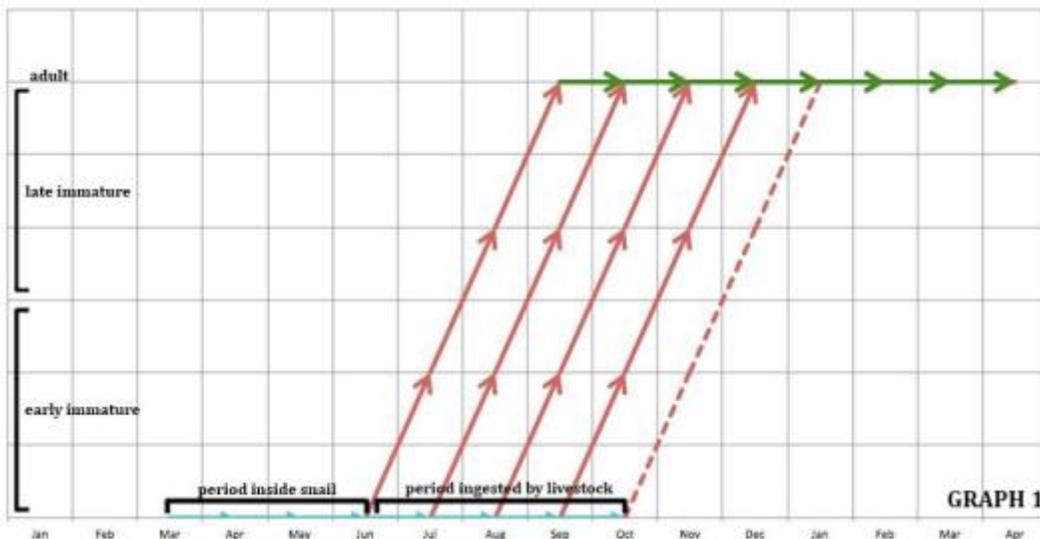
A detailed understanding of the fluke life cycle is not necessarily needed to make the decision on which product to use. An idea of where the fluke will be in their life cycle at what time of year is often enough to make a good judgment on drug choice.

In essence, the important stages of the fluke life cycle progress as follows:

1. **Warmer weather (consistently >10°C)**
2. **Various stages outside animal (2-3mo)**
3. **Ingestion**
4. **Early immature fluke (5-6wks)**
5. **Late immature fluke (6-8wks)**
6. **Adult fluke (remaining in the liver for many months)**

Graph 1 shows how the fluke spend 2-3 months in the snail-dependent stage of their life cycle, before they emerge and become eligible for ingestion by livestock. From here, they progress through early immature and late immature stages inside the animal, before finally developing into egg-producing adults, which sit in the bile ducts and gall bladder of cattle and sheep. In any given year, the lines on the graph could shift to either the left or right, as the start of the fluke life cycle can begin

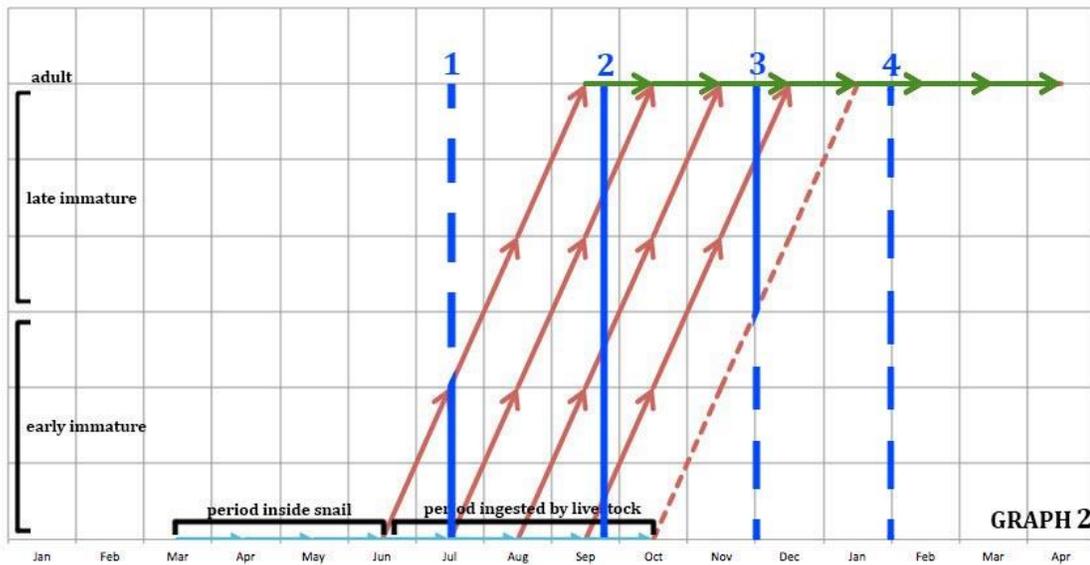
earlier or later in the season depending on the weather and temperature. The red dotted line denotes the tail end of the season, where maturing fluke may or may not be present depending on the



environmental conditions that particular year.

The necessity to treat for fluke, and the appropriate time to do so will vary from year to year depending on the severity of the fluke burden and the grazing and housing patterns of your stock.

Graph 2 shows four points throughout the year that you might consider treating for fluke (displayed as blue lines). The point at which they cross the red lines demonstrate the type of fluke which are likely to be present at that time.



As you can see, at point 1, the only fluke likely to be present are those in the *early immature* phase of their life cycle. As such, a product which is effective against early immature fluke *must* be used at

this time, or else treatment will be ineffective and a waste of time and money.

At point 2, *all* stages of fluke are likely to be present in the animals. As such, treatment at this time would require you to use a product which is effective against *all* stages of the fluke life cycle.

At point 3, only *late immature and adult* fluke are likely to be present. Therefore, we no longer need to use a product which is effective against early immature fluke, and can now use a drug which is only effective against late immature and adult stages.

At point 4, only adult fluke are likely to be present. Therefore, we can safely treat with a drug which is only effective against the adult stage.

Unfortunately, resistance to the drug which kills all life stages of fluke (triclabendazole) is now appearing across the country. In order to preserve the effectiveness of this drug, it is important that we use the other drugs available where possible. In the situation above, treatment at point 1 or point 2 would require the use of a drug containing triclabendazole. However, treatment at point 3 or point 4 could be carried out with a number of other products. In summary, before you treat for fluke, take a moment to consider the drug you are using. If you are in any doubt over whether you have the right one, ask your vet. You might just end up using a cheaper one instead! Examples of flukicides are listed below:

Products killing *all* life stages of fluke (triclabendazole):

Fasinex, Fasimec Duo, Combinex*, Endofluke, Tribex, Triclacert, Triclafas*

Products killing *only* late immature and adult fluke (nitroxynil/closantel):

Trodax, Flukiver, Solantel

Products killing *only* adult fluke (benzimidazole/oxyclozanide):

Rycoben[‡], Albex[‡], Albenil[‡], other white (benzimidazole) wormers[‡], Zanil

*Flukicide/wormer combination drug. Only use when worming is also necessary.

[‡] Must be given at the specified (higher) fluke dose rate.

This article and its graphs describe the most common pattern of fluke development, which manifests itself as an autumn disease of livestock. In some less common situations, early stages of the fluke parasite are able to ‘overwinter’ inside hibernating snails, emerging early in the year and causing clinical disease in the spring. The phenomenon of fluke causing disease in the spring is not addressed here, and advice from your vet should be sought if you suspect that you are seeing the clinical signs of fluke infestation in the springtime.

TRANSPORT CHANGES

John Flanders

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is reminding animal transporters that the process for renewal of type 1 transporter authorisations has changed and authorisations are no longer renewed automatically.

Type 1 transporter authorisations are required for those transporting animals, as part of an economic activity, on journeys over 65 km (approximately 40 miles) and up to 8 hours in duration. Transporters involved in economic activity include farmers.

APHA has published an article on its websites, which outlines the renewal procedure at –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-process-for-renewal-of-type-1-animal-transporter-authorisations>

Around half way down is a link to the relevant forms you need to renew it.

COUNCIL CORNER

Council would firstly like to wish all members a very happy and successful 2017.

To Show or Not To Show? - We very much hope that you will consider showing this year. It is a great way to meet up with other members, to see how your flock is shaping up, and if necessary, find wise and helpful advice as to how to improve your sheep if needed, or get a wonderful boost of confidence if your sheep receive rosettes. If you really can't face halter training a sheep, or do not have the time, then please do consider entering a fleece for Fleece competitions! The Show schedule for 2017 is included with this Newsletter!

Planning Ahead - Thinking of shows (or the Breed Sale) – as soon as your ewes have lambed, you can start thinking about which sheep and lambs you might want to show. You will doubtless want all your lambs to grow on well, but it may be that you will want the very best of your flock to have a bit of extra feed, or the most nutritious grass. If you would like help, or advice, with selecting sheep/lambs to show, sell or register, then please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary and she will put you in touch with your nearest experienced breeder who will be happy to advise.

Help Always Wanted - Council is always looking for people to lend a hand at events – if you do live reasonably locally to an event/show, please do come along and help out. We can always do with help setting up, packing up, laying out food, or selling merchandise. For new members particularly - it is a great way of getting to know other members and talking 'sheep' or not, as you want!

The Annual Census and Lamb Registration forms – These are enclosed with the Newsletter – please do fill in the census in good time – monitoring sheep numbers is a very important function of the Society.

Flock Competition – The Flock Competition is run bi-annually and will take place again this year. This is very different to taking your sheep to a show. The Flock Competition judge/s will be looking at your flock as a whole and not at individual sheep. They will be interested in how your sheep 'look in the field', in your management of the flock, and your marketing strategies, also in your aims and ambitions for your flock. It is a wonderful chance to talk to a 'Cotswold Expert' and get some advice if wanted. The entry form is included with the Newsletter. Entry is at the reduced price of £15 (fee goes towards the judge/s fuel costs).

Joining Council – Nomination forms are enclosed with the Newsletter – we are

always looking for people who would like to become involved in the Society. You do not have to be a sheep expert – new members are welcome. All you have to have is enthusiasm for the breed, time to attend Council meetings, and to support events. If you, or any member you know, would be interested in joining Council – please do fill in the Nomination form! Being on Council is a very rewarding thing to do, and it is vitally important for the future of the breed that more people do become involved with the running of the Society.

Junior Christmas Card Competition – A reminder – The closing date for the competition is coming up soon. Remember we are looking for budding artists to paint, draw, or otherwise create, this year's Christmas cards. There are two age groups – the '**10 and Unders**' and the '**11 to 16s**'. The winner in each group will receive a Society hoodie in their choice of colour, and the satisfaction of seeing their design printed on the 2017 Christmas cards. Each will also receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Designs should be original, the work of the artist, and contain at least one Cotswold sheep (it could just be their head!!). All entries should be sent to the Secretary, with details of the designer, by 28th February 2017.

EVENTS:

Summer Social & Flock Walk (Sunday 11th June) – All members and their families are invited to visit the Queenford Flock near Dorchester on Thames. There will be a 'Bring and Share' BBQ lunch, followed by the Flock walk, tea and raffle – Society merchandise will be for sale. The invitation is enclosed with the Newsletter – please do come along!

The Society Summer Show (Sunday 23rd July – Bourton-on-the-Water) - this is the perfect opportunity for new members to have a first go at showing, not only will there be the ordinary classes, but there will be a **Veteran Class** for sheep (either sex) 5 years old and older (mouths will not be inspected). There will also be a **Mother and Daughter Class** (for ewes of any age!). Following the Show there will be a 'Bring and Share' lunch. The **AGM** will take place in the afternoon.

Moreton Show (Saturday 2nd September) – **Flock Competition** – This is a Pedigree Flock Competition run by Moreton Show – Pedigree Flocks within a 25 mile radius of the show are eligible – it would be wonderful if more Cotswold flocks would enter. Please contact Moreton Show Office for details - 01608 651908 – or Steve Parkes on 07776 143643.

Winter Social (Saturday 25th November) – Another date for your diary – This will

again take place at the Westwood Centre, Northleach.

Cotswold Sheep Society Show Dates 2017

SHOW DATE	SHOW	JUDGE	Show Address	Contact Details
17/6/17	3 Counties	T Jackson	Three Counties Show Ground Malvern Worcestershire, WR13 6NW	fionap@threecounties.co.uk tel no 01684 584900
18/6/17	Rare Breeds	J King	Three Counties Show Ground Malvern Worcestershire, WR13 6NW	fionap@threecounties.co.uk tel no 01684 584900
26/6/17	Berkeley Show	Josh Brigg	Berkeley Show Ground, Berkeley, South Gloucestershire	berkeleyshow@gmail.com
1/7/17	Hanbury Show	R Boodle	Park Hall Farm Hanbury, Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6RD	Tel 07876 408814
15/7/17	Stroud Show	S Parkes		info@stroudshow.co.uk
23/7/17	Society Show	D Stanhope	Burghfield House Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire	Sherry Webb Tel 0797 4042445
4 & 5/8/17 2 days	Show and Sale	A Lyons	Cotswold Agriculture Centre, Driffield Road, Cirencester GL7 5QA	Voyce Pullin Tel 01285 869911
2/9/17	Moreton Show	C Cunningham	Moreton Show Office 5 Wychwood Court London Road Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos GL56 0JQ	www.moretonshow.co.uk tel 01608 651908 email: post@moretonshow.co.uk