



Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

Web site: www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Follow whitefacedwoodland on facebook

Newsletter 108 – August 2018

FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

In my last notes I was hoping for some rain. It was rather a long time in coming. I have never seen the land around us so burnt, not even in 1976. One reason for this was the very wet winter and cold spring; grass never got the chance to recover before it was too dry. On the upside, sheep usually do well in dry, warm conditions as long as they have plenty of water.

I have settled well in my new home and I really enjoy living here. The garden is more manageable than at the previous house, but still big enough to meet my needs.

Well, that's all for now. I hope to meet as many of you as possible at Hope Show, the AGM and the Annual Sale at Holmfirth.

All the best,
Neville

AGM AND FARM VISIT

The AGM will be held on Saturday 22 September at Windleden Farm, Dunford Bridge, by kind invitation of Richard and Stacey Smith

The AGM will start at 11am and will be followed by lunch. Richard and Stacey will tell us about the farm's history and there will be a selection of sheep to look at. They propose a farm tour on foot, though a buggy with trailer can also be available if needed.

For catering purposes, please let either Richard and Stacey or Rachel know if you will be attending; also, any vegetarian or other dietary requirements.

The AGM Agenda and Directions to the farm are on page 2

ANNUAL WOODLAND SALE

Sunday 30 September

at Holmfirth Auction Mart

Riverside, Woodhead Road, Holmfirth HD9 2PR

Show classes for aged ram and shearling ram, and presentation of the Ken Wild Trophy

Also: Pen of 6 or more Woodland ewe lambs
Pen of 6 or more Woodland ewes born in 2017

Judging begins at 11am sharp

Sale starts at 12 noon

This will be a catalogued sale

Please get your entries to Jill Thorp *no later than the 14th September* to be included.

She will need the animal's name (if any), tag number, registration number, date of birth and dam/sire details, or as much information as possible.

Contact: Jill Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge HX64QY Phone: 07730402812
Email jillfalkingham@gmail.com

Details can also be found on our Facebook page.

It will no longer be possible to inspect tups for registration on Sale Day. If you need sheep registered, please contact the Secretary urgently, to arrange an inspection

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

still only £10!

2018/19 subscriptions are due on 1st September

Please see Rachel at the AGM or Holmfirth, or post to her at the address on the back page.

We can also accept BACS payments – please ask Karen or Rachel for our bank details

Directions for the AGM

The Farm is called Windleden Farm and the postcode is S36 4TF.. However, this does not take you directly to the farm but rather into the bottom of Dunford Bridge.

Approaching from A628 (Woodhead pass)

Once turning off the A628 the farm is approximately 1 mile on your right hand side.

If approaching from Holmfirth/ Townhead/ Carlecotes.

Follow directions for Dunford Bridge. When you reach the bottom of Dunford Bridge continue up the hill. Pass the Winscar Reservoir on your right hand side and the farm is situated on the left approximately ¼ mile past the turning from Winscar Reservoir. Please note that the farm cannot be seen from the road if approaching from this direction.

We will put a sign on the end of the lane on the date of the AGM so that this helps people find us

AGENDA for the AGM

1. Members present and apologies received
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM as circulated
3. Chairman's report of the year
4. Treasurer's report and Accounts
5. Election of officers
6. Whitefaced Woodland Register and Flock Book
7. Social events, AGM and fund raising
8. Any other business

Item 2: The draft minutes are circulated with this Newsletter. Please bring your copy with you

Item 3: The Chairman will report at the meeting

Item 4: Accounts will be available at the meeting

Item 5: Neville Belfield and John Jones are willing to stand again as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. If you have additional suggestions for officers or committee, please contact the Secretary without delay.

The Society's Lunch

A reminder that tickets for the **Lunch at Meltham Golf Club on Sunday 25 November** are available from Robert and Angela Crampton (contact details on page 4) or from Ross Warburton – phone: 07740 240380. Tickets are limited, so get yours now!

Show results

Harden Moss

Judge: Neville Belfield

Aged ram: 1st Paul Thorpe, 2nd Casey Campbell, 3rd Thomas Thackeray

Shearling ram: 1st Paul Thorpe, 2nd Thomas Thackeray, 3rd Casey Campbell

Ram lamb: 1st Casey Campbell, 2nd Richard Smith, 3rd Paul Thorp

Aged ewe: 1st Thomas Thackeray, 2nd Paul Thorp, 3rd Chareen Kaye

Shearling ewe: 1st Richard Smith, 2nd Paul Thorp, 3rd Thomas Thackeray

Ewe lamb: 1st Thomas Thackeray, 2nd Paul Thorp, 3rd Richard Smith

Paul's 2-shear ram was Champion and Richard's shearling ewe took Reserve.

Great Yorkshire Show

Judge: John Jones

Aged ram: 1st and 3rd Paul Thorp, 2nd Richard Smith

Shearling ram: 1st Casey Campbell, 2nd and 3rd Paul Thorp

Ram lamb: 1st Paul Thorp, 2nd Richard Smith, 3rd Casey Campbell

Aged ewe: 1st and 3rd Paul Thorp, 2nd Casey Campbell

Shearling ewe: 1st and 3rd Richard Smith, 2nd Paul Thorp

Ewe lamb: 1st and 2nd Paul Thorp, 3rd Godschalk Partners

Paul's aged ram was Male Champion and his aged ewe, Female Champion and these two sheep went on to take Breed Champion and Reserve, respectively.

Ryedale Show

Judge: Angela Crampton

Aged or shearling ram: 1st and 3rd Richard Smith, 2nd Laura Brown

Ram lamb: 1st and 3rd Richard Smith, 2nd Chareen Kaye

Aged ewe: 1st and 3rd Chareen Kaye, 2nd Richard Smith

Shearling ewe: 1st and 3rd Richard Smith, 2nd Pam Walker

Ewe lamb: 1st Chareen Kaye, 2nd Siobhan Coates, 3rd Pam Walker

Group of 3: 1st Chareen Kaye, 2nd Richard Smith, 3rd Laura Brown

Chareen's aged ewe was Champion and Richard took Reserve with his aged tup. Laura Brown's was the "best woolled sheep".

An historic flock is revived

In last October's Newsletter, we quoted from John Farey's *General view of the agriculture of Derbyshire* (1811 to 1817):

“Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. annually, has a score of [Woodlands] sent to be fattened in his Park at Revesby in Lincolnshire...Lord Vernon (the late) annually in September, bought in 60 Woodland Wethers, of 3 to 5 years old, and in 12 to 17 months feeding on his farm in Sudbury [Suffolk], brought them to 14 or 20lb per quarter...F.N.C.Mundy, Esq. after shearing-time in July, buys Woodland Sheep in the peak, at about 25/- [£1.25] each, and fats them on Grass in Markcaton Park, for his own table.”

Clearly these gentlemen were not alone in taking Woodlands to the south of England. The Countess of Onslow has sent us the following letter about the history of the Clandon Flock which she is presently engaged in reviving.

“In the late 1700s, at the request of Lord Onslow, a flock of fine Penistone sheep were driven to Clandon Park in Surrey from North Shropshire. No one knows why but as far as I can ascertain deer were irritating the then Lord Onslow as they had decimated an Italianate garden at Clandon House and had reduced in numbers as Clandon Park had no secure deer fencing that was high enough to retain them in an enclosed area. I also know that good sheep and wool were much sought after in Guildford at the time.

This grand Penistone Whitefaced Woodland ram "Clandon" was the then Lord Onslow's favourite ram. When Clandon died of natural causes (around 1790) His Lordship was heartbroken and arranged for his head to be preserved ! Apparently he sorely missed the ram who had always wandered about causing mischief in Clandon Park. The Park was Clandon's domain and stories relate that he once charged across the width of Clandon Park (some 1000 acres square) to fight and kill a younger ram that was showing interest in his ewes ! (He must have had brilliant eyesight or a great sense of smell!)

It is doubtful if this old boy has seen the light of day since the 1700s but here he is out in the sunshine in all his splendour.



Many years later the preserved head of this grand fellow was decorated with jewels and silver chains by a later Earl of Onslow. He has remained a firm favourite with each Earl of Onslow and the Onslow children ever since ! After centuries of being on display and stroked regularly, his cream coloured fleece and hair on his face has started to fall out, so the image is not entirely "Whitefaced" any longer, however he is huge and you can tell on close inspection that his face was originally all smooth and white !!!!!

We can't wait for the time when a grand pure bred Whitefaced Woodland ram as stunning as Clandon has the freedom of Clandon Park once again. In the meantime we have built the flock up to 102 ewes in our first year which is a great start (thanks to your great help and support). I must admit that our target of 1000 to 1500 registered breeding ewes within the next 10 years is a challenging task but we are committed to give it our best effort !

I would love to have Neville Belfield's view as "Clandon" must be quite an early preserved example of the breed. Are other preserved heads about ? Perhaps we can have a DNA sample taken from his skin ?

My very best regards to everyone at the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust who love this amazing breed of sheep. After just one year of working with them I can already see why !”

Kind regards, The Countess of Onslow, Clandon Park <https://www.clandonpark.com>

C O N T A C T D E T A I L S

Chairman: : Neville Belfield, 2 Gonville Avenue, Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 0EG Phone: 01260 253158

Vice Chairman John Jones, Cefn Gwyn Farm, Aberangell, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9QG Phone: 01650 511485, mobile: 07925 118278 e-mail: johnjonesbenjamin@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Karen Lucas
Pikenaze Farm, Woodhead, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 1JD Phone: 07787 241960

Secretary & Membership: Rachel Godschalk
Plover Hall, Gilmonby, Barnard Castle DL12 9LU Phone: 07962 152242; e-mail: RachelGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Newsletter & Registrations: Ann Godschalk
Plover Hall, Gilmonby, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 9LU Phone 07985 096230, e-mail: AnnGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Committee Members:
Robert Crampton, Rooftops, 11 Moor Lane, Grassington, N Yorks BD23 5BD Phone: 01756 753779 e-mail: r.crampton11m@btinternet.com

Paul Dixon, C/o William Sykes & Son, 38 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3JH Phone: 01484 683543, mobile: 07720 765094, e-mail: PaulDixon@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Jeff Dowey, Pikenaze Farm, Woodhead, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 1JD Phone: 01457 861577

Rob Ford, Parkside, Park Road, Leek, Staffs ST13 8JT Phone: 01538 398290, e-mail: RobFord@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Jill Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY Phone: 07730 402812 e-mail: jillyf1@fsmail.net

Paul Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY Phone: 07712 232087 e-mail: paul_thorp@icloud.com

Tessa Wigham, Riggshield Farm, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4PS Phone: 01228 675304, e-mail: Wighamtessa@aol.com

Chris Wray, Westfield House, Marton Road, Gargrave, N Yorks BD23 3NL Phone: 01756 749303 e-mail: wray.westfield@googlemail.com