



## Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

Web site: [www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk](http://www.whitefacedwoodland.co.uk)

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### Newsletter 109 – October 2018

#### From the Chairman...

Since my last notes, we have had both the AGM and the Holmfirth Sale. I would like to thank Richard and Stacey Smith for a very interesting and enjoyable day at Windleden Farm. The format for the sale at Holmfirth was much improved on previous years and the introduction of a catalogue was also a big plus. Our thanks to Jill Thorp. A lot of the prices for breeding females were rather disappointing, but I think this is a result of a lack of confidence in the industry in general. As for rams, it has to be accepted that there are just too many for the demand out there. Our congratulations go to James Gill on winning the Ken Wild Trophy and setting a new breed record of £2,800. Congratulations also to Paul Thorp and Thomas Thackeray for winning the Senior and Under 25s Exhibitor Trophies for the second year running. Anyway, I hope you have all got the rams you want, and have a successful breeding season  
Take care, Neville

#### Holmfirth Woodland Sale

Almost 200 ewes and ewe lambs were forward and 50 tups, with records broken in all classes. Champion shearling ram from J Gill, Hoyland, sold for £2,800. Purchaser Mr G Pears, Penistone. £1,300 for shearling from J Jones, Powys, sold to E Sutcliffe, Hebden Bridge. £1,200 for 3-shear ram from C Kaye, Ripponden, sold to Mr G Pears, Penistone. £1,000 for a shearling sold by T Thackeray, Meltham. Purchaser R Smith, Dunford Bridge.

A record £450 was paid for a shearling ewe from A Crampton, Skipton, sold to L Brown, Holme. A pair of shearling ewes from Mrs Crampton sold for £205 to Mr S Whalley, Lancashire. Four shearling ewes from J & H M Dowey, Woodhead made £142, sold to J & A Fisher, Ayr. Ewe Lambs hit a new high of £170 each for a pair, sold by C R Mitchell, Holmbridge to Mr C Campbell, Hade Edge.

#### Woody\* lunch

**\*but it will be succulent and tender!**

To confirm the date: Sunday 25th November. Please be there promptly at 12.30pm **WOW!** it's a sell out - 101 tickets. There will be a seating plan. It will take time so please be patient; there will be lots of food for everyone and entertainment.

Venue: Meltham Golf Club, Thick Hollins Hall, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 4DQ. It is not easy to find, so allow plenty of time; use your sat nav or a google map. The Golf Club is on the B6107 between Holmfirth and Meltham, about 1.5 miles out of Meltham on a bad bend but well sign posted. Any problems ring me or send an email.

Any special diets: YOU MUST ring Ashley or Hayley on 01484 850227 option 3. Golf Club rules: Sorry NO JEANS, smart casual Bring lots of raffle prizes and plenty of money, it will be another great fun fundraising lunch.

Robert Crampton  
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#### And to follow . . .

##### Woodland recipes

I am looking to produce a Whitefaced Woodland breeders' book or booklet, using members' family favourites. I want to cover different ages, (lamb, hogget, mutton,) cuts and offal – especially the lesser used ones (something a bit different). Tell me why you like that particular meal, and some details about your flock and farm.

Please send a clearly written recipe and instructions, along with a photo if possible, to the address below, or bring it to the Social Lunch on Sunday 25 November. Obviously, contributions from sales would go into the Society' coffers.

Helen Dowey, Pikenaze Farm,  
Woodhead, Glossop, Derbys SK13 1JD

## A different perspective?

“What do you mean, you have never been to an Agricultural Show?” our friend Rachel says in amazement.....well it is important to know my husband is a Yank and believe me they don't have shows like this in America, they just have rodeos! The Hope Valley Agricultural Show was our first Show and my goodness the passion people have for their sheep is laudable! We cannot believe how much we learned and mostly what we were amazed by. I am proud to say I now know what a tup is, a wether sheep, a shearling, a teaser, I know what flushing is and I even know why the lady with her sheep next to Rachel's (that looked as if they were a Persil advertisement all bright white) should NOT have bathed her sheep the night before to make them look pretty!

I cannot believe there is so much to know about sheep and I am sure we haven't even scratched the surface.

How can there possibly be so many different breeds of sheep; there was one big devil almost as tall as me called a Bluefaced Leicester that neither had a blue face, nor did he come from Leicester! I am sure he was a llama in sheep's clothing. Some of them have horns and some don't, some tall and some short, some pretty and some quite frankly pretty scary when you look at those horns.



So we now come to the most amazing part for us. The judging starts and the sheep are all lined up with their owners

presenting them with their best stance, then the judge wants them skittering around. Have no idea why but it is fun to watch and more fun to see all the anxious owners watching intently with a “let the winner be mine” look on their faces. Nothing amazing about that BUT then the judge indicates he wants the sheep back in line for one last look and each one of the owners grabs their own sheep. HOW ON EARTH DO THEY KNOW WHICH IS THEIRS?? They all look alike! When I asked that question one owner looked at me aghast and said “well you could pick your children out in a crowd and we can pick our sheep out, it is just the same”. LOVE that passion

What fun us two newbies had or perhaps now that make us shearlings? Whatever we are, we certainly are going to return.

Jo Auckland

## Show results

### Halifax Show - Judge: Chareen Kaye

Aged ram: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Laura Gilbertson

Shearling ram: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Crampton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp

Ram lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Crampton

Aged ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Crampton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Smith

Shearling ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Crampton

Ewe lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Crampton

Group of 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Crampton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Laura Gilbertson

The Champion was Paul's aged ewe and Reserve, Angela's shearling ram.

Paul also took the prize for “Best lamb” and his Champion ewe took Reserve in the Interbreed.

### Mottram Show - Judge: Karen Lucas

Aged ram: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Thackeray

Shearling ram: 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Thackeray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp

Ram lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Smith

Aged ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Chareen Kaye

Shearling ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Chareen Kaye, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Smith

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

Group of 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Thackeray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chareen Kaye, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp

Paul Thorp took Champion and Chareen was Reserve with her shearling ewe.

### Hope Show - Judge: Richard Smith

Aged ram: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> John Jones

Shearling ram: 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Thackeray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Crampton

Ram lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> Rachel Godschalk, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp

Aged ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rachel Godschalk, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell

Shearling ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Angela Crampton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chareen Kaye, 3<sup>rd</sup> Karen Lucas

Ewe lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Lucas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Rachel Godschalk

Champion was Rachel's tup lamb and Reserve, Paul's aged tup.

**The Champion of Champions** was judged by Mike Salisbury and won by Paul's aged ewe, with Chareen's aged ewe as Reserve  
Also congratulations to John William Thorp, who won the Young Handler under 10 years class

**Traditional breeds at Melton Mowbray -  
Judge: Rob Ford**

Ram: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Trust, Orford Ness  
Ram lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Maureen Johnson  
Ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pip and Sally Hodges  
Breed Champion was Pip and Sally's shearling ewe, with Maureen's ram lamb Reserve

**Penistone Show – Judge: James Gill**

Aged ram: 1<sup>st</sup> Casey Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp  
Shearling ram: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell  
Ram lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Thorp  
Aged ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Casey Campbell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chareen Kaye  
Shearling ewe: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell  
Ewe lamb: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Lucas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Smith  
Champion was Paul's aged ewe and Reserve, Richard's shearling ewe.

**Hayfield Show – Judge: Tony Redfern**

Results to follow

**Annual Show and Sale at Holmfirth – Judge: Angela Crampton**

Shearling ram: 1<sup>st</sup> James Gill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Thackeray, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Dowey, 4<sup>th</sup> John Jones, 5<sup>th</sup> Paul Thorp, 6<sup>th</sup> Karen Lucas  
Aged ram: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Thorp, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell, 4<sup>th</sup> Richard Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Alex Bywaters, 6<sup>th</sup> Chareen Kaye  
James Gill won the Championship and the Ken Wild Trophy, and Paul's aged tup was Reserve.  
Winners of the Pen of 6 shearling ewes were:  
1<sup>st</sup> Rachel Godschalk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Thorp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell  
Pen of 6 ewe lambs: 1<sup>st</sup> Clive Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Crampton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Campbell

*At the end of the show season, we congratulate Paul Thorp who again won the "Points Trophy" for the most show wins. The Junior Trophy was retained by Thomas Thackeray.*

## Ollerbrook - a bit of History

*After John Moorcroft and I joined the Society you asked for a bit of background on our small flock. I have been meaning to do this for weeks and I am taking advantage of a tremendous downpour to get something off to you.*

My late uncle was Jim Thornley who farmed at Ollerbrook Farm in Edale. The farm had been in the family for four generations. I was virtually brought up there as a small boy, indeed until about the age of seventeen. My Grandfather, also called Jim, owned the farm, which on his death, passed to "young" Jim, my Uncle. I kept in contact with Ollerbrook as much as possible throughout my life, and on retirement went back helping my Uncle. He died in 2012 aged eighty.

Ollerbrook was a typical Peak District hill farm with sheep the main income although dairy cows were kept at one time, replaced by suckler cows. Even back to Grandfather's time, there were always Whitefaced Woodlands around, even though Swales, Swale crosses, and in recent years additionally a variety of polled ewes, were the predominant breeds. Back to my Uncle's time, he was a keen breeder of Woodies and had a very nice flock. He was a huge friend of Rider Howard's and he judged at many shows. He was Chairman of Edale and Hayfield Shepherds' Society for a long time, until shortly before his death. The last tup my uncle ever bought was a Woody from Paul Thorp and I went with him to pick it up.

It was when I went back to Ollerbrook that I met John Moorcroft who had worked on a part time basis for my Uncle for 20 years, an achievement in itself, as anyone who knew what a "character" my uncle was, would testify! John and I struck up a friendship, sharing many interests and a passion for sheep. We have indeed become the very best of friends.

Following my Uncle's death the farm had to be sold and the sheep disposed of. When it came to sorting the sheep there were half a dozen "oddments" of lambs, cades, self weaned etc that really couldn't be sold at that time, including four Woodies. Two were wether lambs, and two were ewe lambs. I asked John to take them and we would see how they turned out.

The two ewe lambs, following a bit of TLC, started to improve and eventually made nice sheep. The first twice they went to the tup, they

went to John's Suffolks. The third year, in a casual, semi serious chat, I suggested they ought to go to a Woody tup. For me, it was to keep a bit of the Ollerbrook line going, Woodys had played a part in my life, I had grown to share my uncle's fondness of them, and in memory of my uncle and his flock, George Wainwright, who had bought Ollerbrook, kindly let them go to his tup, for two seasons.

From those small beginnings, we have started to build our joint flock. In 2016 we purchased seven shearlings at the HPLS sale at Bakewell. They were from Neville Bellfield. Sadly one of our original Ollerbrook ewes died at lambing time two years ago, but the original "old girl" is still going strong, has just raised a pair this time, has had five crops, and will go again. With our home produced shearlings, plus Neville's, and our old ewe, we will have fourteen to put to the tup this time. We have just weaned eight ewe lambs, so the future is looking bright.

Our aim is to get to about twenty/twenty five ewes, and keep looking to improve our quality as much as we can. Our task next year will be to source a fresh tup, which again will hopefully improve us. They run alongside John's main

commercial flock of Welsh Half Breds, at Bolt Edge Farm, in the Peak District near Buxton.

Another spin off, John took over Chairmanship of Edale and Hayfield Shepherds' Society when my uncle stood down. John was keen that the Sheep Marks Guide, which had not been updated since 1984, should not disappear. He "suggested" I might be the man to take on the task, and with the approval of the four Societies concerned, namely Edale and Hayfield, Dunford Bridge, Snake, and Strines, work went ahead and some three years later, the revised Guide was issued in 2017. I was then nominated to be Marks Secretary for the Societies, in order to keep the Guide up to date, act as a central reference point etc. Through this work, I have met many great people and I am pleased to say that Paul Thorp has become a good friend to myself and John and I still like to keep in contact with Rider Howard.

Roger Townsend

P.S. The name "Moorsend" derives from a mix of our names, Moorcroft and Townsend. And I should have added that John also developed his fondness for Whitefaced Woodlands working on my Uncle's flock.

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