



## Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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

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### Newsletter 98 – Spring 2016

#### From the Chairman...

Hello everyone and seasons greetings . I say this because it's 25th of April and it's colder than Christmas day and we've got snow! (At Wood head ) one member will laugh at the brackets . Just a quick note because we're still hard at it but into the last lot now. A shame it's the biggest ones; we've only had the sheep in for three days and they've already eaten up and are pacing the fence - it usually takes a week to get to that stage!

I was sorry to hear of Philip's resignation. I rang him and asked him as a friend rather than Chairman to reconsider but his mind was made up. I would like to thank him personally and on behalf of the Society for all his work over the years.

I hope lambing had gone ok for everyone with some good lambs for the coming season. Well best get on again. I hope to see everyone at Meltham for the 'Thank God it's Over' dinner.

Take care, Paul

#### Fundraising Lunch

An urgent reminder that this is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May at Meltham Golf Club, Huddersfield. Please note it is by pre ticket only and **the last day to order tickets is 15<sup>th</sup> May**. So you only have two weeks left!

##### You buy tickets as follows:

The tickets are £20 each. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope with a cheque payable to: Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society to:

Robert Crampton

Rooftops, 11 Moor Lane, Grassington  
Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5BD

Or you can see Ros Wharburton around  
Holmfirth - Telephone: 07740 240380

Or from Ashley at Meltham Golf Club  
Telephone 01484 850227 option 3. Also call  
Ashley for any special diets or high chairs.

If you want to reserve a table, 6, 8 or 10 per table  
please advise Robert Crampton.

***Remember we also need prizes for our raffle.***

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#### Editor's Bleat

I've just about come out of lambing in one piece, though because the grass hasn't grown yet, we're still feeding ewe rolls in the field, which means my legs are constantly bruised! For shearing and feeding, horned ewes are definitely bad news, but horns certainly make it easier to catch and check a ewe that has just lambed! We had a disaster with our triplets (ten ewes, including six Woodlands, scanned for triplets – we've never had more than a couple before) which we brought in for TLC and which promptly got toxoplasmosis – result: four dead ewes and only 13 live lambs out of 30. Otherwise, lambing feels to have gone well, though I haven't added up the figures yet! Bad timing meant we have ended up with ten pet lambs, but it would have been much worse without the brilliant fostering ability of Woodland ewes – you can practically throw a lamb at one that's lost hers and she'll mother it to bits!

I hope to see lots of you at the Meltham Lunch, and perhaps at some of this season's shows. I have rather hopefully called this the "Spring 2016" Newsletter, so let's hope that spring arrives soon, the sun shines and the grass starts growing again.

## Letter from Philip Onions

Dear Members,  
I have decided that the time has come for me to step down from the committee of the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society.

I am very proud of the achievement we've made with the Hill Register. You now have a way to register previously unregistered, pure bred Woodlands that is acceptable to the RBST. Some of us never thought that was possible.

I've managed, for the first time in many years, to unite the Woodland world... in their common hatred for me! Well, it's meant to be a joke, but like all jokes it has some truth in it, in that no one person has got everything that they wanted from this process. We've all had to compromise. I've tried to listen to all view points, all sides and give everyone something, but by doing that, no one can have it all their own way. I certainly know it wasn't all that I wanted!

So you have a system now that works, the rest is up to you. I've done my part, I've driven thousands of miles, talked to hundreds of people and negotiated back and forth. I've drawn up charts and diagrams to try and explain the complexities imposed on us by the RBST and I've written long, detailed explanations of the inspection process, based on what YOU'VE told me you want, to name just part of it.

Now it's time for me to get out of the way and let you, the ordinary Whitefaced Woodland owners, make the registration process work. Actually, it is past that time, I really should have retired at the last AGM and I wanted to, but I allowed others to talk me into staying on longer and we were put under pressure behind the scenes to host the next AGM here. I should never have agreed, my home and farm are in a terrible mess at the moment as my focus has been elsewhere and we're a long way away from getting our sheep shed built, so to give the committee time to organise somewhere more appropriate, I have told them to find somewhere better. I'm sorry to have let you all down and hope you will remember my achievements, not my failures.

Finally, I would like to thank Paul Thorp who has proved to be a first class Chairman and Ann Godschalk and Rob Ford for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Good luck everyone and take care,

Philip Onions

## News from Members

Judith Hawkhead has sent a copy of the RBST York Group's Newsletter with details of a Farm Open Day at Hovingham in the Howardian Hills on 8May. The Group will be hosting the RBST display at the Great Yorkshire Show, July 12th to 14<sup>th</sup> and would welcome offers of help

On 29 November, they will be holding a rare breed meat tasting evening at The Purple Partridge in Raskelf. "Come along and sample dishes prepared using our own rare breed meats and taste the difference"

For more details on any of these events, please contact Judith at [judith.hawkhead@york.ac.uk](mailto:judith.hawkhead@york.ac.uk) or phone: 01347 824534

### From Janet Knight in West Sussex

*[This was received last autumn – my apologies for not managing to fit it into the last Newsletter. Ed.]*

As a relatively new member I am so sorry I cannot get to the AGM or the Annual Sale; both being on a Sunday makes it very difficult as I am involved with our local parish churches. I was so looking forward to meeting breeders of Whiteface Woodlands. For those who don't know me I have been involved with the Earthingly Flock for a long time and when Roger Green who I'm sure you all know retired to Cornwall, he gave the flock to me, though he is still involved in their registration etc. I have got to know Richard from the Rare Breeds Trust and I am very keen to meet members of the White Faced Woodland Sheep Society .

I have shown shearling ewes, ram lambs, ewe lambs and rams, this year. We have had a good season, taking a supreme championship with a shearling ewe at the Singleton Rare Breeds show. I would very much appreciate advice from the members, as we will be looking to buy a new ram next year. If any events are taking place I would be very interested to attend but Sunday will always be difficult.

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**A post mortem** report on a recently dead ewe gives the cause of death as "elective inactivity" – which presumably means that, like any good sheep, she just decided to lie down and die.

## Sheep Wanted

Geraldine and Richard Woollatt write from Meirionnydd:

“We have been goat keepers for many years but are keen to raise a few rare breed sheep and are keen to obtain some whitefaced woodlands. Our land is ideal for them. Initially we are interested in purchasing **four young female sheep, shearlings preferably**. This will give us an opportunity to develop our sheep husbandry before we put them in lamb. We travel to the Midlands quite frequently and to the Northwest occasionally. Any stockholders in Mid to North Wales would be a bonus.”

To contact them: telephone 01766 590656 or e-mail [richard.woollatt@virgin.net](mailto:richard.woollatt@virgin.net)

**Rachel has been contacted by several people looking to buy Woodlands.** If you have any for sale, or are likely to have any in the not too distant future, please would you get in touch with her so that she can pass on the information – contact details below.

## Show updates

Honley Show entries close on 4 June. Sheep Secretary for this year is Paul Sykes – phone 07775 898647.

Rob Ford will not be judging at Royal Three Counties Show in 2016, but is booked for next year.

North Yorks County entries close on 30 May. Schedule and entry forms at [www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk)

Great Yorkshire entries close on 12 May. Forms can be downloaded but there seems to be no on-line entry facility - [www.greatyorkshireshow.com](http://www.greatyorkshireshow.com)

Entries for Ryedale Show close on 6 July. Schedules at [www.ryedaleshow.org.uk](http://www.ryedaleshow.org.uk) and on line entry should be possible.

The date of the Rare Breeds Show and Sale at Skipton is confirmed as Saturday 3 September.

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

**Chairman:** Paul Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY  
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**Treasurer:** Karen Dowey  
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**Secretary & Membership:** Rachel Godschalk  
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