



# Newsletter No 63 Summer 2012

July 2012

Newsletter No 63  
Summer 2012

## Dear Members

Enclosed is your registration forms and entry form for the show and sales along with your annual subscription renewal.

The Society will again be holding three show and sales this year.

Please note the Blakesley Show has been cancelled due to the weather.

## D D Lyn Davies

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Lyn Davies who passed away at his home on 4<sup>th</sup> July at the age of 81.

Full obituary page 4.

## Society Leaflets

Do you have some shows or events to go to and need some leaflets?

Then please ask and we can send you a supply of them to take and promote the Breed.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in Northamptonshire this year over the weekend of 20th and 21st October 2012

The event will be hosted by Stuart Brodie at The Old Dairy Farm, Upper Stow, Northants.

Members will meet at 1pm for a buffet lunch, with the AGM being held at 2pm with tea and coffee afterwards and then a look around the Brockhall flock. A dinner will be held in the evening at the same venue and there will be a tour of local flocks on the Sunday morning.

Should members not be able to stay for the whole weekend they are welcome to join in on any of the activities. The weekend should prove to be an interesting and enjoyable event and we hope to see many of you there.

Full details will be sent to members later in the year.

### Inside this issue:

Eblex Award winners	2
Eblex Award winners	3
DD Lyn Davies	4
New Payment Methods	5
Council Meetings	6
Society Sales	7
Society Merchandise	8
Kenilworth Show	9

## Society Members Tim & Esther Patchett Wins Top Eblex Award....

The Wiltshire Horn sheep winner of the EBLEX Improved Flock Awards for 2012 is the Bloemendaal Flock, owned by Tim and Esther Patchett who farm near Westbury in Wiltshire.



*Tim and Ester Patchett survey some of their Wiltshire Horns*

Organised through the Sheep Better Returns Programme, this award is presented to the English performance recorded flock that has shown the most impressive improvement in genetic merit over a 12-month period, within the breed.

Coulston Farm extends to 40ha (100 acres) of permanent pasture and has been in the Patchett family since 1945. Run as a dairy farm for 30 years, a herd of pedigree Hereford and Beef Shorthorn cattle was established in 2003 when the dairy cows were sold. The Bloemendaal flock of Wiltshire Horn sheep started with a few pedigree shearlings and a ram, brought in to help graze the pasture after the cows.

Since then the flock expanded up to 60 breeding ewes by keeping replacements and buying in additional ewes and rams. However, an accident a few years ago forced the sale of all livestock while Mr Patchett recovered. Now, numbers are building up again.

Another reason for choosing the Wiltshire Horn breed was their ability to perform well on a low input system. They are hardy enough to out-winter on pasture and do well with no supplementary feeding. The fact they shed their wool is an added bonus. Native to the county, this breed also produces delicious meat which the Patchetts sell through a boxed meat scheme.

### **Recording invaluable**

The Patchetts were used to making management decisions based on performance records with their dairy cows, and quickly joined a group of likeminded breeders when they started to record their Wiltshire Horn sheep. They are fully committed to the belief that data backs up and supports their experience and judgement.

Members of the group agree that performance recording has proved invaluable. Genetic progress across the recorded population of Wiltshire Horns, and within each individual recorded flock, is encouraging. All flocks are moving forward, improving growth and carcase traits without compromising litter size and maternal ability. As more progeny are recorded, the index is becoming more accurate, giving a clearer guide to the genetic merit of the rams and ewes within each flock.“

At Coulston farm, the rams are put in with the ewes at the end of October or early November and stay with them right through lambing. The sheep are rotated onto clean ground and faecal egg counts taken to find out if they need worming. Lambing takes place outdoors and the ewes and lambs receive no concentrates. When the lambs reach the required weight, those not selected for breeding are killed for the boxed meat scheme.

One of the key traits the Patchetts look for when selecting females is good mothering instinct, and the ability to rear two lambs up to the required weight. They are not shy about culling animals that do not meet their selection criteria, taking only the best forward to produce the next generation.



*New Zealand Wiltshires*

This focus has improved the quality of the ewes which is reflected in the Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) of the stock. The wide use of a high index, homebred Bloemendaal ram has really helped take the flock forwards.

The Patchetts do not have much time to commit to showing, but attend a few one day events to fly the flag for the Wiltshire breed – often in mixed classes to showcase them against other breeds. In 2006 they won the National Flock Competition organised by the Breed Society and held an open day on their farm.

As for winning the EBLEX award this year, Tim Patchett said he feels most humble but delighted. “Winning is a great encouragement for us to continue what we are doing,” he admitted. “It is good to see we are getting something right!”

### **Long term uplift from superior genetics**

The advantage of genetics and the use of tools such as EBVs are being widely recognised within the industry.

EBLEX sheep breeding specialist Samuel Boon believes one of the major benefits is the cumulative and permanent way a focus on genetics can lift performance.

“The time and effort involved will pay dividends for years, not just in the winning flock, but also in the flocks that buy rams from them,” he says.

“With lamb prices at an all-time high, the difference between choosing the right recorded ram for the farm, or an animal of average breeding merit, could be worth £1,000 or more. So there has never been a better time to invest in superior genetics.

“Tim and Esther recognised the value of doing this many years ago and this strategy has served them well, as they now have the highest indexed Wiltshire Horn flock in the country.

“The use of this home-bred ram and their meticulous selection process has produced outstanding results and are the reasons for this win. Congratulations to them both.”

## D D Lyn Davies 1931—2012

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Lyn Davies who passed away at his home on 4<sup>th</sup> July at the age of 81.

Lyn was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1931 in Wales and moved to Northamptonshire with his family in 1938 where he lived for the rest of his life, first in Slapton, then Blisworth and later Harpole. Lyn's lifelong commitment to the Wiltshire Horn began at the age of 12 when his father bought him his first Wiltshire Horn sheep. He became a member of the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society in 1949 when he registered his ram Boxes Atom and a ewe lamb. Lyn joined the Council in 1958 and was Treasurer from 1982 to 2004. He was vice President in 1981 and 2006 and President, a role he clearly enjoyed, in 1982 and in 2007 when he served a three year term. In recognition of his contribution to the Society Lyn was made a life member in 2005.



Lyn loved his Wilts but best of all he loved to show them off and he was a regular exhibitor in Wiltshire Horn classes. He won many championships over the years, notably the Royal Show championship in 2000. Lyn's sheep were regular winners at the Society show and sales where they were in great demand. He won the championship at Banbury Market early on in his show career in 1956 and at the 2011 Stoneleigh show and sale his sheep won reserve champion male and female and both groups of three and he was awarded the Phillip Smith Points trophy.

Lyn was a much respected judge joining the judges' panel in 1956 and judging his first show in 1959. He judged the Royal Welsh in 1967 and was particularly honoured to be asked to judge the Wiltshire Horn classes at the last Royal show in 2009.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Lyn and other longstanding members who stayed true to the Wiltshire Horn through very difficult times, when the membership was down to only 22 and the breed nearly died out through lack of interest, and it is thanks to them that the breed and the Society survive today. All of us in the Society benefit from their loyalty and belief in the breed. The Wiltshire Horn was an important part of Lyn's life and he was an important part of the Society.

Lyn was a modest man and people respected him but most of all they liked him and enjoyed his company. He regaled us with stories of his sheep and farming life, was interested in people and was always willing to share his knowledge. Lyn touched many people's lives and this was shown at his thanksgiving service when the church was full and there was standing room only. He will be sorely missed by all.

Lyn is survived by his wife Janet and their three daughters Susan, Jenny and Mandy, and also by his Boxes flock which will be retained by his family.

We send our sincere condolences to Janet and her family and our thoughts are with them all at this very difficult time.

## New Payment Methods

To try and make things easier for both you the member and the Society, payment for society services can be made in the following ways:

### Annual Subscriptions

**PAYMENT FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS CAN BE MADE BY EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING 3 OPTIONS:**

1. **By cheque** made payable to WHSS
2. **By bacs transfer** to:  
Barclays Bank PLC Sort code: 20 37 82  
Account number: 93490351
3. **By standing order**, please complete the enclosed form and return to the Secretary, NOT your bank, before 30<sup>th</sup> September to cover subscriptions from this year onwards.

### Registrations and Sale Entries

**PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATIONS AND SALE ENTRIES CAN BE MADE BY EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING 2 OPTIONS**

1. **By cheque** made payable to WHSS
2. **By bacs transfer** to:  
Barclays Bank PLC Sort code: 20 37 82  
Account number: 93490351

In response to a recent request by a member, resums of topics discussed at council meetings will be included in newsletters.

### **Council Meeting held on 28th April 2012.**

7 new members were approved and welcomed to the Society

Promotion of the Society: A photographer was to be sourced to take photographs of Wiltshire Horns to provide a database of pictures for promotional use.

New Society leaflets were to be produced.

NSA Events: The Society would attend South Sheep, the sheep for the stand would be provided by R Elliott & Son and Sheep 2012 at Malvern where the sheep would be provided by S Brodie.

Accounts: Draft accounts had been produced by the accountants. The Society would purchase a day to day accounts package from Grassroots to help with administration. New payments methods for members would be introduced for society services.

Society Sales: There would be no upset prices set for stock offered for sale at the Society Sales. The Society would introduce a 2% sale levy on the hammer price of all animals sold at the Society Sales.

Society Cups: The Findon family would present a new trophy for the best opposite sex at Moreton in the Marsh show this year.

AGM: The date for the AGM was confirmed as Saturday 20th October and would be at the Old Dairy Farm,, Upper Stow, Northants.

Articles of Association: The Council is conducting a review of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society.

**If you have any matters that you would like brought up at the council meeting in October then please forward them to the secretary by 21st September.**

## Come and Buy a Ram .....

Why not come to the Society sales to buy your ram this year or some ewes to put to your own tup?

At Society sales there is a wide choice of rams and other stock for sale. Buying from an auction gives buyers the opportunity to view and compare stock from many different breeders and bloodlines all under one roof. If you are nervous about buying at auction council members will be on hand to offer help at the sales and further guidance will be sent out with the catalogues.

## Official Society Show and Sales 2012

### Ruthin

#### Welsh Border Region Show and Sale

Thursday 6th September 2012

**Closing date for Entries is 17th August 2012**

### Stoneleigh

#### National Show and Sale

Saturday 15th September 2012

**Closing date for Entries is 17th August 2012**

### Exeter

#### South West Region Show and Sale

Friday 5th October 2012

**Closing date for Entries is 21st September 2012**

*Please note there will be no entry fees for females entered in the Ruthin Show and Sale*

## 2 % LEVY

Please note that a Society levy of 2% will be charged on the hammer price at all three Society sales this year.

## NO UPSET PRICES

No upset prices will be set at the three sales. Vendors may set their own reserves with the Auctioneers.

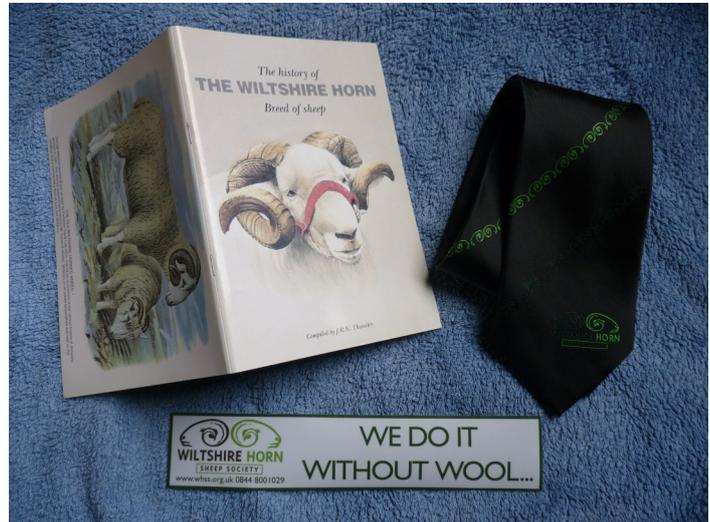
## The New Range of Official WHSS Merchandise

### SOCIETY TIE

The latest design of the Society tie is now available. The cost is £12 per tie including p&p

### CAR STICKERS

The easy way to boast about your breed!, printed in vibrant, waterproof, non fade ink, these are made from a quality self-adhesive vinyl, for placement on the inside of the car window. £2 each



### HISTORY OF THE WILTSHIRE HORN BREED

A 48 page book on the History of the Wiltshire Horn Breed written by Mr Richard Thwaites. £5 each

### WILTSHIRE HORN POLO SHIRTS

Personalised Polo Shirts. A quality 100% cotton polo, 190gsm fabric, with knitted collar and cuffs, with a cool-weave, supersoft feel. It is available in a range of colours and sizes (XS-3XL). Sizes are very generous! If you usually need a medium order a small.

Not only is the Wiltshire Horn Logo prominently embroidered on the left chest, but you can also choose to have your flock prefix embroidered below it.

What's more the polos are very competitively priced at £20 each, including p&p

To order any of these items, please contact the Secretary Christina on 0844 800 1029 or [info@wiltshirehorn.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshirehorn.org.uk)



2012 Champion  
Shearling ewe from Williams & Litchfield

	<b>Senior Ram</b>	<b>Shearling Ewe</b>	<b>Shearling Ram</b>	<b>Pair</b>
	6 Forward	10 Forward	10 Forward	5 Forward
1st	AV & J Brigg	Williams & Litchfield	J Bradley	J M Jeyes
2nd	J M Jeyes	J M Jeyes	J M Jeyes	J Bradley
3rd	Williams & Litchfield	Williams & Litchfield	J M Jeyes	Williams & Litchfield
4th	J Bradley	J M Jeyes	AV & J Brigg	AV & J Brigg

### **Champion for the Gorse Tankard**

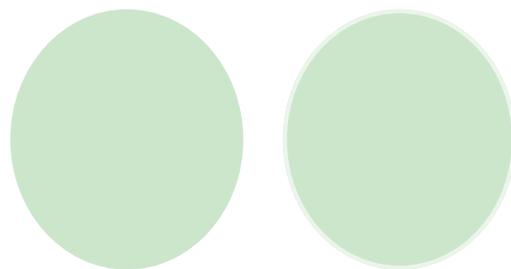
Williams & Litchfield

### **Best opposite sex for the J Jeyes Cup**

AV & J Brigg

### **Pair for the ER Morris Cup**

J M Jeyes



## **Society Website**

Have you looked at the Society website lately?

Are you looking for some new stock?

Then take a look at the Stock For Sale section



**Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society Ltd**

**Stickle Heaton Farm  
Cornhill on Tweed  
Northumberland  
TD12 4XG**

**Tel: 0844 800 1029**

**[www.wiltshirehorn.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirehorn.org.uk)**