



# Newsletter No 71

## Spring 2016

### Dear Members

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter which we hope you find an enjoyable and informative read!

Members are welcome to contribute to Society newsletters so should you wish to write an article of interest to other members for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact the Secretary.

### Lamb Registrations

Closing date for 2016 born lambs is **30th September 2016**

At the recent council meeting Council voted unanimously to bring the closing date of lamb registrations forward to the 30th September to bring it into line with the membership renewal date. This will enable us to publish the flock book earlier in the following year.

### From the Secretary

Dear Members

I am moving into Scotland at the end of June and sadly I have decided to give up my post of Secretary which I have been for the last 9 years.

I have enjoyed my time immensely with the Society during these 9 years and have been made feel very welcome by the friendly membership that the Wiltshire Horn Society has.

I would like to thank all the members and Council for their support over the years and I hope to still perhaps see some of you in the future.

Regards, Christina

We will shortly be placing an advertisement for a new secretary in the Farmers Guardian.

# Obituaries

## **The late Mr J.R.N. (Richard) Thwaites**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Richard Thwaites, a past secretary, president and life member of the Society who passed away in January after a long illness.

Richard was a chartered surveyor who was a partner in Kings Miles, operating from the Mendips. When he became a member of the Society in 1973 he had a small flock of Wiltshire Horn sheep which he successfully showed winning championships at the Bath and West and Royal shows with a homebred ram. Unfortunately Richard had to give up his flock when he retired to Devon due to back problems but he remained a very active member of the Society.

Richard worked tirelessly as honorary secretary of the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society for 21 years up until 2004 at a time when the Society was going through one of the most difficult periods in its history. The year he became secretary there were just 60 members with registrations of only 200 ram lambs and 201 ewe lambs. By the time he retired in 2004 there were 223 members with 314 ram registrations and 617 ewe registrations.

Richard would be seen at all the major events in the Society's calendar and a lasting memory is of him smartly dressed complete with bowler hat acting as steward for the Wiltshire Horn classes at the Royal Show.

Richard's lasting legacy was the compilation of the History of the Wiltshire Horn Breed of Sheep. The book was researched and written by Mr Frank Reid, who was Secretary of the Society from its formation in 1923 up until 1957. The book was never printed so Richard decided to compile the book, adding the two final chapters, and published it in the early 1990's. The book is still available to buy from the Secretary.

It is thanks to Richard's passion and enthusiasm that the Wiltshire Horn has flourished to be the successful breed it is today and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Richard and other longstanding members without whom the breed and Society may not have survived.

Richard was a true gentleman who was respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed.

We send our condolences to his widow Kay and his family.

## The Late Mr John L. Findon

We are also very sad to announce the death of John Findon a past member of the Society who passed away on 21<sup>th</sup> March at the age of 89.

John was well known in his local community as a farmer and as the owner of the local garage which he ran for many years. He served on the parish council and went on to become a long serving county councillor and chairman of the Police Committee. He was a colourful character who always spoke his mind and will be remembered in the Society as a great supporter and promotor of the Wiltshire Horn and particularly for his extremely firm handshake.

John bought his first Wiltshire Horn sheep from Veronica Brigg's Gorse flock and joined the Society in 1994. He soon became an enthusiastic exhibitor of his sheep, showing in most Wiltshire Horn classes throughout the season. He won numerous championships, most notably with his homebred ram Cadbold Ace, and won the lolo Owen Points Trophy five times.

John's Cadbold flock was one of the largest flocks of Wiltshire Horns at the time and many new members bought their sheep from him to start their own flocks. He actively promoted the breed both at the shows he attended and by regularly manning the stands at NSA sheep events.

John will be remembered each year with the presentation of the Cadbold cup which was donated to the Society on John's behalf by his family. It is presently awarded to the Best Opposite Sex to the champion at Moreton-in-Marsh show.

John was laid to rest in Pillerton churchyard on 28<sup>th</sup> April, buried with his crook.

We send our condolences to John's son John and daughter Lesley and their family.

# National Show 2016

Anglesey show will be hosting the second National Show for the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society.

The show will be held on Tuesday 9th August 2016

Judge: Mr Roger Elliott, Kislingbury Flock

Classes are as follows:

- Class 470** RAM, two shear and upwards.
- Class 471** SHEARLING RAM
- Class 472** RAM LAMB
- Class 473** EWE, that has reared lambs during the current season
- Class 474** SHEARLING EWE
- Class 475** EWE LAMB
- Class 476** GROUP OF THREE, comprising of a male and two females

The overall Champion will be crowned the National Wiltshire Horn Champion of 2016 and will receive £100 from the WHSS and will be presented with the Brockhall Trophy. The Best opposite sex to the Champion will be awarded a sash from the WHSS



If you are unable to exhibit then please come along and support the show and meet fellow breeders.

Entries close Tuesday 5th July  
schedules will be available from Anglesey show office

*01407 720072 or [www.angleseyshow.org.uk](http://www.angleseyshow.org.uk)*

# Show Dates 2016

## June

4th June 2016	Kenilworth	01788 833910
17-19th June 2016	Royal Three Counties	01684 584901

## July

9th July 2016	Tivy Side	01239 858958
2nd July 2016	North Wales	01286 832403
18-21st July 2016	Royal Welsh	01982 553683
26-28th July 2016	New Forest	01202 661770

## August

6th August 2016	Blakesley	01327 350873
9-10th August 2016	Anglesey <b>(National Show)</b>	01407 720072
16-18th August 2016	Pembrokeshire	01437 764331

## September

1st September 2016	Bucks County	01296 680400
3rd September 2016	Moreton in Marsh	01608 651908
17-18 Sept 2016	Royal Berkshire (Newbury)	01635 247111

# Council News

*Council Meeting held on 30th April 2016*

**NEW MEMBERS** 4 new members were approved and welcomed to the Society

**PROMOTION** NSA Events—The Society would have a stand at the South Sheep and Sheep Malvern events this year.

**ACCOUNTS.** The yearend accounts were presented to Council.

**MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS.** Membership and registrations were down last year.

**LAMB REGISTRATIONS.** Council voted unanimously to bring the closing date of lamb registrations forward to the 30th September to bring it into line with the membership renewal date. This would mean the flock book could be out earlier.

**SHOWS and SALES.** Plans for the 3 society sales would remain the same as in previous years. All sheep entered at Ruthin may be double entered and entered for Stoneleigh also for a further fee of £1 per sheep

**NATIONAL SHOW.** This would take place at Anglesey show this year. The President W Roberts would arrange a get together and meal for the exhibitors the evening before the show.

**AGM:** The AGM will take place again at the National Show and Sale at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire on Saturday 17th September.

**QUESTIONNAIRES.** Completed questionnaires from the membership were discussed and points noted.

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 the 7th October 2016

# Photo Competition

*In the December newsletter we ran a photo competition and the winning photo, which appears on the front cover of the 2015 Flock book was taken by Jenny Newman of the Weathercock Flock. No 1212*

*Below are some of the other pictures that were submitted*



Photo taken by Trina Glanders



Photo taken by Anna Sanders

If you have any pictures that you feel would be of interest then please email them to  
the Secretary

## Facebook



We are now on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all our latest news.

Join us, like us, be our friend on [Facebook](#)

Please send any relevant content to the Secretary and it can be added.

# Latest News from the Signet Recording Group

Hello fellow Wiltshire Horn Breeders!!

Just a few lines here about The Signet Breeders Group. For those of you who do not know about this it is an independent scheme run by the AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) to improve genetic gain in sheep and cattle promoting growth rates, litter size, maternal ability and reducing inbreeding etc. It provides a dedicated website for those seeking stock and comparing traits. Once initial paperwork is done it is not particularly onerous to collect data needed for the computer programme to work out results.

The data needed are the sires used on which ewes, an eight week weight and a 21 week weight (A lot of you will already be collecting this information for your own records anyway!). Other information such as birth weights etc can be supplied if time allows but not a necessity.

This model is currently used through many breeds of sheep and similar models are used abroad and have had great success in keeping these breeds continually improving. This keeps the breeds in the window as Terminal Sires etc and does not let them fail to be commercial thus only becoming rare breed hobby sheep with a limited genetic base. The Hampshire Down has been one of the many success stories.

I am sure there are many in our society that wish to see the Wiltshire Horn go forward with good breeding and technology hand in hand. It has been proven many times in trials by exposing lifelong sheep breeders to selections of rams that eye alone cannot see and pick out the best Genetic stock. Many articles in the Farmers Guardian and the Farmers weekly along with other books and press publications are out there to prove this.

There is already a pro-active group within the Wiltshire Horn Society who meet once a year, share a linkage ram and who have already made great improvements over the time they have been recording. We would welcome new participants as the more involved the quicker the Genetic improvement (who would not want to use a Ram that will give a crop of lambs with carcasses 2-3kg-if not heavier-of good muscle and not fat at slaughter. This soon puts more £'s in the bank!).

At the start a set number of ewes and rams were needed to participate in the scheme but now smaller groups can be entered as multiplier flocks so why not give Sam Boon the main consultant and his team a call/email to get started and for any advice (address and phone below). Also other Signet breeders would give help and advice and a pointer in the right direction to anyone getting started. As

a bonus there is also a cash incentive from the Wiltshire Society which you can enquire about. So why not help keep our breed improving, going forward, growing and staying in the commercial window and making the Wiltshires more profitable to keep! As you prepare for lambing give this some thought and research and why not join in?

Wishing you all a good lambing and hope those who have lambled have had a good one. Let's hope it's an enjoyable sheep year!

Read more on the WHSS website on the Breed Enhancement page

<http://www.wiltshirehorn.org.uk/enhancement>

## Signet Recording Group—Funding available for new members

The Wiltshire Horn Signet Recording Group is now well established and is seeking new members to join their group. The Society is able to offer funding to members who wish to join. The offer is open to the first five members who apply to join the programme before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 who will each receive £120 towards the cost of performance recording.

In order to qualify for the funding the following conditions will apply:-

- 1 Claimants must join the Wiltshire Horn Signet Recording Programme by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- 2 Claimants must inform the secretary of the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society that they have joined the programme by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- 3 Claimants must sign up and complete recording for a minimum of three lambing seasons.
- 4 Claimants must complete one lambing season of Signet recording before they can apply for the funding.
- 5 Withdrawal prior to the completion of recording for three seasons will render the claimant liable to repay the full sum of £120 back to the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society.

The latest update of the WHSS Performance Recording Programme can be found on the Breed Enhancement page of the website together with details of participating members.

# Annual General Meeting

This years Annual General Meeting will be held in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire in conjunction with the Society National Show and Sale on Saturday 17th September 2016.

There would be a get together and BBQ on the Friday evening, the show would be at 9.30 am followed by the AGM at 12 noon and the sale would commence at 1pm.

Full details will be sent to the membership in due course.

## Official WHSS Merchandise

Ties, Polo Shirts, Car Stickers and History of the Breed Booklet

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



## 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

## Council

Do you have ideas about the breed and how to move it forward? Have you thought about becoming a member of the Council? All members are eligible to stand for election to the WHSS council.

Further details and nomination forms will be sent out in July.

## Questionnaires

Thank you to all the members that completed and returned their questionnaires, they were an enjoyable read!

Council would like to thank you all and say that they have taken all the comments that were made on board.

## NSA Sheep Events 2016

The Society will have a stand at the following two NSA events this year, please come along and support the event.

### South Sheep

Tuesday 7th June, Wiltshire

Pythouse Farm, West Hatch, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6PA

### NSA Sheep Event

Wednesday 27th July, Malvern

The Three Counties Showground, Malvern,  
Worcestershire WR13 6NW

## **Ruthin**

### **Welsh Borders Region Show and Sale**

Thursday 8th September 2016

## **Stoneleigh**

### **National Show and Sale**

Saturday 17th September 2016

To include the 2016 Annual General Meeting

## **Exeter**

### **South West Region Show and Sale**

Friday 7th October 2016

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

*All sheep entered for the Ruthin sale may also be entered  
in the Stoneleigh sale for a further fee of £1 per sheep*

### **Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society Ltd**

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