

Southdown News

Newsletter of The Southdown Sheep Society

Issue 22

Autumn 2016

WHAT A MEMORABLE WEEKEND!



The 125th Anniversary National Southdown Show on August 6th at Goodwood in Sussex. With over 200 sheep entered and classes with over 25 sheep in the line-up, it was an unforgettable event. See inside for results and more pictures.



What a Memorable Weekend!

The 125th Anniversary was an amazing weekend of celebrations and the Southdown Sheep Society Council would like to thank everyone who took part, behind the scenes, during the weekend, in the build-up, with sponsorship and during the many months of preparation leading up to the event. We could not have done it without you all!

We were delighted to receive so many positive comments after the event, and some of those are shared here:

Congratulations and Well Done for a beautiful weekend. Thanks to all the hard work behind the scenes.

I thought I would drop you a line to say what an amazing show you put on. It was magnificent in every detail. All your and the others work so paid off. All I heard all weekend were compliments. I really wish we could do it again in the near future!

Thank you for helping me put on a great Show, I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did, it was a pleasure & honour to hold such a prestigious event here at Goodwood. Nick Page

Thank you for organising such an excellent show. We had a thoroughly good day out and learnt a lot about Southdown Sheep, it was very interesting being able to compare so many in one place.

Congratulations to all involved with the weekend celebrations - everybody who helped in anyway - needs thanking as the whole weekend ran like clockwork and was hugely enjoyable

Thank you for all your hard work, unsuppressable energy, enthusiasm and organisation for pulling together a wonderful and exhausting 125 anniversary "bash" with something for everyone. A stupendous effort.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and organisation...we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, meeting new and old friends again, at the show and dinner dance. It was great fun.

We just wish to tell you that last weekend at Goodwood was a tremendous success, very well organised, well attended and enjoyed by all, we send our congratulations on a fantastic job, thank you.

This is just to put on the record my congratulations to you and all the others involved for the excellent celebrations over the weekend. It was a thoroughly enjoyable series of events, and superbly organised.

NATIONAL SHOW WINNERS



Aged ram (D.J. & M.Y. Crundwell)



Aged ewe (Sophie Arlott)



Signet performance shearling ram (Messrs Wakeham, Dawson & Harmer)



Signet performance ram lamb (Messrs Wakeham, Dawson & Harmer)



Shearling ram male champion and overall champion (Messrs Wakeham, Dawson & Harmer)



Shearling ewe (small flock) female champion a reserve overall champion (J.C & S. Long)



Ram lamb (born after March 1st) (N. Stainthorpe)



2nd place shearling ram & reserve male champion (B.W. Graves)



Ram lamb (born Jan 1st-Feb 29) (J.C. & S. Long)



Pair of shearling ram (D.S. & P. Humphrey)



Ewe lamb (born Jan 1 - Feb 29) & reserve female champion (Goodwood Estates Co. Ltd.)



Group of four sheep
Messrs Wakeham, Dawson & Harmer



Ewe lamb (born after March 1)
(N. Stainthorpe)



Shearling ram (large flock)
(Messrs Wakeham, Dawson & Harmer)

2017 Southdown Sheep Society Annual General Meeting and Field Day

Saturday October 7th 2017

to be held at

Neuaddlwyd Uchaf, Ciliau Aeron, Lampeter,
Ceridigeon, SA48 7RE

by kind invitation of Dylan & Delyth Williams

In addition to the Southdown flock, Dylan runs flocks of a number of other breeds, putting predominantly Southdown rams across them all to produce a variety of butcher's lambs; breeds include Lleys, Dorsets, Llanwenogs, Romneys, Suffolks, Cheviot X, Improved Welsh, Black Welsh Mountain, Badger Face and Balwens. A speaker from the local abattoir will talk about the commercial use of the Southdown.

For those members wishing to make a weekend of their visit to Wales, there will be an outing to the local vineyard & winery in Llaethliw on the Sunday morning (<http://llaethliw.co.uk/>), and an informal pub supper on the Saturday evening. Please note that the vineyard makes a charge of £6 per person.

The local town Aberaeron has just been named as the winner of a competition to find Wales' most attractive and inspiring place.

Full details will be included in the Spring 2017 newsletter.

NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY SHOW RESULTS

Judges: Male section: E J Cresswell

Female section: C Sercombe

Championship classes: E J Cresswell and C Sercombe

Class 1

Aged ram

- 1: DG & MY Crundwell
- 2: Alison Allen
- 3: Amy Readhead-Higgins

Class 2

Shearling ram

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: B W Glaves
- 3: DG & MY Crundwell

Class 3

Signet Performance recorded shearling ram

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: Amy Readhead-Higgins
- 3: Sophie Arlott

Class 4

Pair of shearling rams

- 1: D, S & P Humphrey
- 2: Goodwood Estate Co Ltd

Class 5

Ram lamb, born Jan 1st – Feb 29th

- 1: J, C & S Long
- 2: S J Cook
- 3: Mrs E Sargent

Class 6

Ram lamb born on/after March 1st

- 1: Neil Stainthorpe
- 2: J, C & S Long
- 3: Goodwood Estate Co Ltd

Class 7

Signet performance recorded ram lamb

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: Amy Readhead-Higgins
- 3: Sophie Arlott

Class 8

Aged ewe

- 1: Sophie Arlott
- 2: Alison Allen
- 3: J, C & S Long

Champion Male

Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer's shearling ram

Reserve Champion Male

B W Glaves' shearling ram

Champion Female

J, C & S Long's shearling ewe

Class 9

Shearling ewe

(flock size greater than 25 breeding ewes)

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 3: S J Cook

Class 10

Shearling ewe

(flock size less than 25 breeding ewes)

- 1: J, C & S Long
- 2: DG & MY Crundwell
- 3: Miranda Wallace

Class 11

Ewe lamb

Born Jan 1st – Feb 29th

- 1: Goodwood Estate Co Ltd
- 2: J, C & S Long
- 3: J, C & S Long

Class 12

Ewe lamb, born on/after March 1st

- 1: Neil Stainthorpe
- 2: G & M Sparke
- 3: Jen Heathcote

Class 13 A Pair

(comprising shearling ram and shearling ewe, bred by exhibitor)

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: DG & MY Crundwell
- 3: Goodwood Estate Co Ltd

Class 14

Group of Four Sheep (comprising ewe any age, ram any age, ewe lamb and ram lamb)

- 1: Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2: Goodwood Estate Co Ltd
- 3: Amy Readhead-Higgins

Class 18

Southdown Fleece

- 1: Graham Ryves-Webb
- 2: Neil Stainthorpe
- 3: DG & MY Crundwell

Reserve Champion Female

Goodwood Estate Co Ltd's ewe lamb

Supreme Champion

Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer's shearling ram

Reserve Supreme Champion

J, C & S Long's shearling ewe

The 2017 National Southdown Show

The 2017 National Show takes place at The Suffolk Show, Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8UH (just off the A14) on Wednesday May 31st and Thursday June 1st.

Regular exhibitors at our National Shows will receive a copy of the schedule in due course, but please contact the Suffolk Show office to be sure of getting your copy.

Email Liz.Payne@suffolkshow.co.uk



The 2016 National Show Supreme Champion:
Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer's shearling ram..

SHOW CHAMPIONS ROUND UP

Well Done and Congratulations to those breeders whose flocks have featured in the Interbreed line-ups around the country during the 2016 show season:

- Ashby Show** Interbreed Champion
Mrs Lesley Mead
- Aylsham Show** Reserve Interbreed Champion
Miss Holly Lutkin
- Bucks County Show** Reserve Interbreed Champion &
Reserve Interbreed Group of Three
Basil Cooper
- Cranleigh Show**
Interbreed Champion
Hannah Turner
- Edenbridge & Oxted Show**
Reserve Interbreed Champion
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Essex Young Farmers Show**
Interbreed Champion
Mrs Amy Readhead-Higgins
- Frome Show** Interbreed Champion
Mrs G Helyer
- Hadleigh Show** Interbreed Champion
Mrs Amy Readhead-Higgins
- Heathfield Show** Interbreed Champion
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Henley and District Agricultural Show** Interbreed
Champion
Graham Ryves-Webb
- Herts County Show** Reserve Supreme Champion
Basil Cooper
- Kent County Show** Interbreed Group of Four sheep
Goodwood Estate & Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- New Forest Show** Interbreed Champion
Plumpton College
- Newbury Show** Interbreed Group of Three
Mrs Lesley Mead
- Royal Cornwall Show** Reserve Supreme Group
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Royal Bath and West Show** Reserve interbreed
champion J, C and S Long
- Royal Welsh Show** Supreme Ram Lamb Basil Cooper
- Royal Welsh Show** Reserve Supreme Group of Three
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Rutland Show** Reserve Interbreed Champion
Mrs Amy Readhead-Higgins
- South of England Show**
Interbreed Champion, Group & Wool
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Suffolk Show** Interbreed Champion,
Pairs & Group of Three
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Surrey County Show** Interbreed Group Champion
Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- Tendring Hundred Show** Interbreed Champion
Mrs Amy Readhead-Higgins
- Wayland Show** Interbreed Champion
Mrs Amy Readhead-Higgins

Please note: Whilst we try very hard in the office to note all Interbreed champions in shows up and down the country, we rely on our members to let us know of their successes. Please keep in touch with the office to tell us about significant results.

YOUNG STARS

National Young Stars is an event launched in 2015 aimed at showcasing the livestock industry's future talent. The event is run by the Young Stars Committee in association with the Three Counties Agricultural Society and is held at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern.

This year the event took place in March and featured more than 150 young enthusiasts (aged 8-24 years old) competing in beef, dairy, sheep, pig, butcher and auctioneer sections which included a variety of competitive tasks.

The event also hosts a number of trade stands alongside an educational area to showcase what their businesses have to offer the younger generation in terms of intern positions, graduate roles and long-term career options.

Teams competing in the beef, sheep, dairy and pig competitions are judged on their team work, stock judging, handling and presentation skills, as well as their knowledge of the industry.

Competitors in the beef and dairy sections must be aged 14-24, while the sheep sections are open to those aged 8-24, with the pig section aimed at 8-18 year olds. The butchers and auctioneers competitions are for those aged 18-24.

The 2017 event is scheduled to take place in August 2017.

It would be great if the Southdown Sheep Society was able to put together a team to compete in the 2017 event. In the first instance, please make contact with the Southdown office to register your interest and we will try hard to get a team together for next year's event.

**For more information head to:
www.nationalyoungstars.com**

or follow on Facebook at National Young Stars. More details will be included in the Spring edition of Southdown News.

Worcester Show & Sale



Worcester Sale & Show Champion

The Southdown Sheep Society's Premier Show & Sale at Worcester peaked at 310gns for the pre-sale Show Champion "Prescoed Harebell", a shearling ewe from Howard Wood's Pontypool based flock, secured by S. Welton, Ledbury, Hereford. The same purchaser was busy at the sale taking a total of 5 sheep including two others shearling ewes from the Prescoed flock at 205gns and 190gns respectively.

Senior flock ewes were closely followed selling to 150gns for a 3 year old ewe from Robert Backshall's Caesars flock going to P Geary, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

Ewe lambs enjoyed a brisk demand, topping at 170gns for the first prize winner from DS & P Humphrey's East Dean flock also to P Geary and the same price for the second prize from H Wood to H Williams, Llandeilo, Carmarthen.

Shearling rams were a selective trade but topped at a reasonable 300gns again from H Wood, for his second prize winner taken by GE & SJ Mann, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Averages: | 6 Senior Ewes | 149 gineas |
| | 3 Shearling Ewes | 246 gineas |
| | 6 Ewe Lambs | 168 gineas |
| | 1 Aged Rams | 126 gineas |
| | 4 Shearling Rams | 225 gineas |
| | 2 Ram Lambs | 136 gineas |

Is your flock Maedi Visna Accredited?

Enquiries come in to the office occasionally from sheep keepers wanting to source animals from MV Accredited flocks.

This is the current list held in the office – if your flock is MV Accredited and you are not on the list, please let the office know. Conversely, if you are no longer MV Accredited then do let us know and the list can be updated.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Messrs Alderson & Murphy | JMA Long |
| R Beaumont | Miss Jessica Middleditch |
| C & L Beck | Peter & Ann-Mari Payne |
| Ben Collings | Mrs K V Potter |
| S J Cook | Will Morton |
| EJ Cresswell | C & F McKeague |
| Antony Glaves | ALL flocks in Northern Ireland |
| Mrs Georgina Helyer | |

Findon Fair 2016

The 2016 Findon Sheep fair was very successful with 44 farms entering and a record number of sheep on Nepcote Green since 2000. We managed to finish all the judging before the rain came in the middle of the afternoon.

The numbers of sheep forward in all sections was amazing and the Southdown and Downland section was no exception. We had 48 sheep forward in all classes, including 9 rams and 16 ewes brought by 11 different farms. Three of these farms were managed by young people and new to showing which is very positive for the future



A strong line-up of Southdowns at Findon Fair

Championship winner was Anne Lambert with her ram Muscles. Jack and Rosie Hobbs with their Southdowns both came 2nd in the Under 11's, and 12 and over, Young Handler sections. Hari Doman from the Nepcote Flock with her Southdown fleece came 1st in the short wool fleece class.

*Graham Langford
Show Secretary Findon Sheep Fair*

Welcome new shepherds

Many Congratulations to the families of the All Saints and Ladywell flocks on the arrival of baby granddaughters!

Proud grandparents Duncan & Monica Crundwell celebrated the birth of Martha on September 12th.

Proud grandparents Gail & Michael Sprake celebrated the birth of Abigail on June 3rd.

Melton Mowbray Show & Sale

The final official Southdown Sheep Society Show & Sale of the year took place at Melton Mowbray Market as part of the Traditional Native Breeds Show & Sale on September 9th-10th. A good number of breeders, both new and of long-standing, ensured that bidding was brisk and interest was high. Trade for all females was excellent: aged ewes, shearling ewes and ewe lambs all sold and competition was keen with breeders determined to take home females from the last of the season's sales.

Show champion was a shearling ewe from the East Dean flock of D S & P Humphrey, East Dean 15/02359, sired by a home bred tup East Dean 14/01744, and out of a home bred ewe. This ewe was purchased by Mrs Loraine Clements for 350 guineas.

Judge Neil Stainthorpe awarded the Reserve Champion rosette to a shearling ram bred by Mrs Sophie Arlott, Montecristo 15/15081. This ram was sired by Ridings 13/01453, and was out of a homebred ewe. He was sold for 370 guineas to H Wilson of Stamford, Lincs.



Melton Mowbray Sale & Show Champion and Reserve Champion

Ewe lambs were much in demand. Taking first prize in the pre-sale competition was a ewe lamb from D S & P Humphrey, East Dean 16/02887, which sold to new member Debbie Geary, from Olney, Bucks, for the top ewe lamb price of 160 guineas.

Buyers were selective when it came to the ram lambs on offer. Top price was paid for the first prize winner, Caer Owen 16/00020, from Lynne Rowlands of Anglesey, which then headed back home to Wales with Dylan Williams of Cilau Aeron, Ceredigion.

Taking top price of the day was a shearling ewe from Mrs Alison Allen from Norfolk. Marshland 15/00344 was sired by Goodwood Bentley 12/01382, out of a homebred Marshland ewe, and sold for 400 guineas to G Hill of Tamworth, Staffs. Mrs Allen is a loyal and regular supporter of the Melton Mowbray sale since the beginning and her large entry saw a total clearance following a brisk trade.

Regular vendor and buyer Mrs Loraine Clements also returned home with an empty trailer, having achieved top price for an aged ram Wigginton Freddie 12/00019, bred by Gay Hargreaves Jones. This four year old ram, sired by East Dean Hector 05/0297, and out of Buckland Dolly 04/0004, was sold for 360 guineas and headed home to join the Caer Owen flock of Lynne Rowlands.

Averages:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 3 aged ewes | 238 guineas |
| 15 shearling ewes | 240 guineas |
| 8 ewe lambs | 148 guineas |
| 1 aged ram | 360 guineas |
| 5 shearling rams | 274 guineas |
| 3 ram lambs | 173 guineas |

Southdown Sheep Society Council

Following the retirement and election of new Council members at the 2016 AGM, the current members of Council are listed below. Any paid up member of the Southdown Sheep Society is eligible to stand for election to Council. The term of office is 3 years, after which time members are eligible for re-election. Nomination papers are available from our website in the New Year, with the closing date being April 1st.

President: Lindsay Dane

President Elect: Jane Ing

Chairman: Adam Brown (NSA representative)

Vice Chairman: Howard Wood

Treasurer: Neil Stainthorpe

Sid Cook

Jonathan Long

Jessica Cross

(NSA representative)

Duncan Crundwell

Tim Morris

Patrick Goldsworthy

Les Newman

Justin Harmer

Nicole Peart

Paul Humphrey

Dylan Williams

Stephen Humphrey

Howard Wood

Secretary: Gail Sprake

Southdown eNews

It was decided at the Autumn meeting of Council that members would benefit from receiving more regular news updates, in addition to the twice yearly Southdown News. This electronic bulletin will by no means replace the paper newsletter, but it will provide a way of reaching our members on a more regular basis.

If you have an email address, you should by now have received the first of our eNews bulletins.

If you have an email address, but have not heard from us, please email the office with your current email address and we shall add you to the mailing list.

Conversely, if you have received the eNews bulletin but would prefer not to, then simply un-subscribe by clicking at the bottom of the email.

Ashford Show and Sale

Buyers at the Southdown Sheep Society's opening sale of the season at Ashford were cautious in their spending, but bid well for the best of the stock on offer, with quality in demand.

Heading up the trade at 400gns was the pre-sale champion, a shearling ram from the Goodwood flock under the management of Nick Page. This was Goodwood 15/05201, a son of Ridings 11/00701 out of a homebred dam. He was knocked down to the Mannering family, Bethersden.

Then making the same money were a pair of shearling ewes from the Wakeham Dawson and Harmer's Ridings flock. The first of these was Ridings 15/03058, a daughter of East Dean 11/00448 and out of a homebred dam. She sold to Megan Chilcott, Somerset.

The same buyer took the second Ridings shearling at this price, with this one being Ridings 15/03056, a daughter of the homebred Ridings 11/00701 out of an imported French dam.

Then selling at 360gns was a Goodwood shearling ewe by a Southern Cross sire and out of a homebred dam. She sold to Nigel Barrington-Fuller, Clacton On Sea.

And at 350gns was another gimmer from the same home and this time by Ladywell 12/00095. She is out of a homebred dam and sold to Messrs Sparke, Hertfordshire. A pair then sold at 330gns, with the first being another of the Goodwood shearling rams, Goodwood 15/07391. Again by Ridings 11/00701, this one is out of a homebred dam again and sold to Messrs O'Kane, Hothfield.

The other at this level was another Ridings shearling ewe, Ridings 15/03064, another by the Ridings 11/00701 sire and out of an imported French dam. This one also headed to Somerset with Megan Chilcott.

Three then found new homes at 300gns, with the first being the female and reserve overall champion, a ewe lamb from the Long family's Chaileybrook flock. This was Chaileybrook 16/0022, a daughter of the homebred Chaileybrook 13/0001 and out of a homebred dam. She was bought by Celeste and Florence McKeague, Ayrshire.



Ashford Sale & Show Champion Ram

The next two at this price were shearling ewes from the Ridings flock, Ridings 15/15/03146 and Ridings 15/03140, with the former being by an imported French sire and the latter by an East Dean sire. Both of these were also bought by Megan Chilcott.

Selling at 280gns was Southern Cross 15/00649 from Messrs Whitcombe. This shearling ram is by Langford 12/00134 and out of a homebred dam and sold to Anne-Marie and Peter Payne, Hertfordshire.

Wrapping things up at 275gns was the reserve male champion and leading ram lamb of the day, Chaileybrook 16/0002 from the Long family. Sired by the imported sire TC10187, he is out of a homebred dam and sold to Ray Edwards, Devon.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Averages; aged rams | 215 guineas |
| shearling rams | 273 guineas |
| ram lambs | 202 guineas |
| shearling ewes | 283 guineas |
| ewe lambs | 196 guineas |

NEW Southdown recipe book

We are delighted to have available a new Southdown recipe book. This interesting collection of recipes covers starters and soups, main courses, sweet stuff and baking, and "odds and sods". Put together by Council member Jessica Cross to celebrate the Anniversary, "125 years of co-operation and sharing", the recipes draw upon the culture and culinary influences of Jessica's homeland of South Africa. The recipe book is wire bound and pages are wipe clean, ensuring that even after much use it remains as good as new.

Selling out at £8, it makes an ideal, and postable, gift.

WEBSITE ADVERTS

As from January 1st the cost of placing an advert on the website will be **£10 per advert**. All adverts will include the flock name, breeder's contact details including telephone numbers and email, and a **brief** outline of what is available for sale. Please note that no pedigree information, no show results and no photographs will be included. Adverts remain on the website for 3 months.

A memorable weekend!

Our 125th Anniversary was celebrated in style and was a memorable weekend. The sun shone, the backdrop of Goodwood House was unforgettable, the quality and number of sheep competing in the National Show exceeded all expectations and the little tin tabernacle church at the Weald & Downland Museum was filled to capacity on Sunday morning as we gave thanks for the Southdown sheep.

A picture tells a thousand words and included here are just a small number of the images that capture the memories of the Anniversary weekend. Please see the website for a full report and more pictures.



Judging is underway.



Shepherding through the ages - Nick Page's collection of tools and equipment.



Final preparations - Chrissie Long and Sid Cook.



The Friday evening BBQ: Tim Morris and Jonathan Long lighting up.



Judges Charles Sercombe and Jim Cresswell ponder seriously.



The group of four sheep class - so many sheep in one ring.



The Goodwood shepherd's hut.



BBQ in full swing.



Last minute tidy-up for a Goodwood sheep - team work!



Nick Page from Goodwood catching up with Sid Cook and Brian and Doreen Glaves.



The Goodwood shepherd's hut - a perfect secretary's office, pictured with Lynn Morris tackling AML forms.



Judging from the sidelines - Irving Pallister and Brian Glaves.



Secretary Gail Sprake on the microphone.



The AGM: The Chairman & President's Award for outstanding service. presented to Nick Page.



Catching up with fellow exhibitors - Lorraine Clements and Russell Davies.



Aerial entertainment.



Stephen Humphrey and Paul leading the Service of Thanksgiving.



The congregation.



Patrick Goldsworthy receives the Frank Grantham trophy from the Duchess of Richmond.



Stewards Les And Tricia Newman in action.



Watching the judging - Dave Rhead, Adam, & Caroline Brown and Anna Wolland.

The Scottish Southdown Breeders' Group



When we started our Wagglehill Southdown flock of four gimmers and one ram from Goodwood, we had no plan. It was a spontaneous purchase and I think I thought it would be nice to have some of the sheep of my youth, as I grew up within sight of the South Downs, and spent a lot of time riding and walking over the Downs. I was wondering how they would cope with their first Scottish winter 800 feet above sea level, but I needn't have worried,

they didn't flinch. Southdowns appeared in Scotland quite early on in their development and proved their hardiness by grazing the same hills as the Cheviots and winning top prizes in Scottish shows in the early 1800s, exhibited by The Duke of Richmond, Jonas Webb and Hugh Keillor, who had run a Southdown flock in Scotland from the 1820s.

Even so, when we approached our first show with a home bred ewe lamb, it was with some trepidation, as the Southdown is but a distant memory with most farmers in our part of the world. Imagine our delight when we won our class against some tough competition, and also took a 4th place with a second lamb! The judge admitted the breed was new to him, but was very complimentary and asked a lot of questions and showed a genuine interest. We have been pleased to have won quite a lot of ribbons since then, including two reserve champions, one male and one female in our class, which for a still relatively unknown breed is very encouraging.



We were absolutely thrilled when we were asked if we would like to set up a Scottish Southdown Breeders' Group. Currently there are six Southdown owners in Scotland spread from the Shetland Isles to Ayrshire, some are registered flocks, some are not, but between us we have some very good quality breeding, with Goodwood, Buckland, Chaileybrook, East Dean, and very recently, Ladywell, in our Group. We can arrange transport to and from Scotland via a very reliable, and reasonably priced transporter, so there is no reason now for us not to trade across the border!!

Representing the Scottish Breeders' Group, we attended the recent Scottish Smallholder and Growers Festival at the Lanark Showground, taking with us a selection of different age female and male sheep, including a wether. Our stand, with the two splendid new pop up banners, attracted a great deal of attention from the public and we also distributed literature and information to all those interested. All in all it was a good day and worth the very long journey and hopefully we can arrange easier access to the stand for the public next year, so that they can come in and handle the sheep for themselves.

In starting our Wagglehill flock we have very big footprints to follow in Cyril Wise, but we'll certainly be doing our very best to fly the Southdown flag up here in Scotland.

*Mary Watson
Wagglehill Southdowns
Scottish Southdown Breeders' Group*

Southdown shearling ram sets new £3000 breed record



A Southdown shearling ram from Messrs Wakeham-Dawson and Harmer's Ridings flock has set a new £3000 breed record price in a private sale to Goodwood Estate, Chichester.

The ram, Ridings 15/03130 'Ridings Flock Master', is a son of imported French sire Benoit and is out of the homebred dam Ridings 08/1116, which itself is homebred on both sides.

Bred by embryo transfer, 'Ridings Flock Master' had stood breed and interbreed champion at June's South of England Show, Ardingly, where he was purchased by Goodwood Estate. He carries performance figures inside the top 1% of the breed, including an eight week growth rate figure of +3.3 and a scan weight figure of +5.87.

He will be used across the full spectrum of English and New Zealand genetics in the Goodwood flock.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTHDOWN OFFICE

The Council of the Southdown Sheep Society meets at least twice a year and the Notes from the Office aim to keep members updated on some of the important issues raised and discussed within Council meetings.

2016 LAMB REGISTRATIONS

More and more members are choosing to register their lambs online using the Pedeweb system. All paid up members should have received details of their password and information held on line. There is a User Guide available to download from the Southdown Sheep Society website, together with some FAQs. To access the on line Flock Book simply follow the link from the Society website.

The current registration charges are:

| | |
|--|-----|
| on line registration fee per ewe lamb | £4 |
| on line registration fee per ram lamb | £8 |
| paper registration fee per ewe lamb | £5 |
| paper registration fee per ram lamb | £10 |
| late registration fee on line and/or on paper per animal | £20 |

Lamb registrations

Members should make every effort to register lambs as soon as possible to avoid omission from the next edition of the Flock Book. Please note that all late registrations (ie after the year of birth) remain eligible for registration but at the late fee charge of £20 per registration.

All lamb registrations should be with the office by November 30th 2016.

The Southdown Office is closed for all but emergency enquiries for two weeks over Christmas and New Year.

Imports and Exports

Members are reminded that the Office must be notified of any intended exports and imports. The rules as published in the current Flock Book state that "an export certificate must be obtained from the Secretary at a cost of £10 per Southdown and the sum of 5p in every pound of the sale price shall be paid within six months of the sale".

This zootechnical (export) certificate for pure-bred breeding sheep, their semen, ova and embryos, should accompany the animal (or germinal product) where they are traded or entered into the European Union to allow an entry or registration of those animals in other breeding books or breeding registers.

The Southdown Sheep Society therefore fulfils its obligations as a Defra recognised breed society by issuing the export pedigree certificate to allow entering of pure-breed breeding sheep in flock-books.

Annual Subscription

Many thanks to all those members whose subscriptions are already paid up to date. Just a reminder that the 2016 subscription (£35) was due from January 1st 2016. Standing Order instruction forms are available to download from the website or from the Office. Please ensure that when making a BACS payment, or setting up a Standing Order for subscription payment, that you

include your name as a reference with the payment! Just occasionally it is impossible to trace the source of a payment!

Advertise your flock

Members can advertise and promote their flocks in a number of ways, full details are included in this newsletter. Please note that the "fiver" advert facility on the website has been updated and the charge from January 1st 2017 for a brief advert up on the website for 3 months is now £10.

Getting it right

Do we have your correct information? Please try and update the Office with any changes of address or contact details. If you spot any errors or inaccuracies in the information included for you in this year's publications do let the Office know by the end of the year as the Flock Book goes to print in January.

Email

If your email address changes, please remember to inform the office, this can be done via Pedeweb.

New Southdown Sheep Society website

The new Southdown Sheep Society website went "live" in early Autumn and the feedback from our members has been positive. If you have not yet explored it, take a look at www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the Society's new members:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Mrs Joan Lee | Scotland |
| Mark Black Farming Ltd | Hampshire |
| Louise & James Bendall | Hampshire |
| Mrs J Wentworth-Stanley | Hertfordshire |
| Edward Morgan | Wales |
| Mr J Pitt & Mrs S Butler | Essex |
| Ian & Monica Morgan | Cornwall |
| Helen & Matt Vickery | Wiltshire |
| Chetwynd Forest Southdowns | Birmingham |
| Llion Pugh & Gwenno Owen | Wales |
| G & H Gosnell | West Sussex |
| Miss Claire Llewellyn & Mr Stephen Matthews | Staffs |
| Mrs Taesha Butt & Mr Joshua Butt | Somerset |
| Debbie Geary | Bucks |
| Leah Harris | Shropshire |
| Sarah Ross | Hampshire |
| Emily Fox | Shropshire |
| Jessica Stanger | Notts |
| Verity Mansfield | Pembrokeshire |

FLOCK COMPETITION NEWBIE

Wowie Dunnings from Alresford, Hampshire, started her "Wolfhanger" Flock (No. 1153) in 2013 and entered the Flock Competition for the first time this year. She shares her thoughts in advance and after the judging took place, and hopes that her own experiences may encourage more novice breeders to "have a go".



I had thought the show season was over and that I could relax for a while. I was blown back into show type preparation when I got a call from Alex Long asking if she could come to see and judge my flock on Tuesday – that was only five days away. Panic is the wrong word but my brain went in to overdrive, wondering what I

should do and what was expected of me. I looked over my flock and thought "well, they don't look too bad".

I decided to carry on with what I was doing for the weekend. Klik, clippers and cleaning. Ewes' feet needed trimming for tugging and cleaning up a few dirty bums. With flies still about, I wasn't taking any chances.

A few days before Alex's arrival, I sent an urgent email to Gail Sprake, asking if she could give me the "low down" on what the judge would be looking for and how I should present my sheep. After a lovely chat with Gail, I felt much calmer and with a few tweaks here and there I could get my flock in order.

On the morning of the visit (Alex wasn't arriving until 5pm) I went to check my sheep as normal. Great – I thought – the ewe lambs had escaped into the field with my ewes. No problem – I'll pen them all up, separate and move the ewe lambs back to their field. They were having none of that but finally persuaded them with my faithful plastic sheep dog (a yellow bucket). I put the two shearing ewes that I have into a pen with water and hay. They would be happy there until Alex arrived. I moved my non Southdowns to a separate paddock. My attention turned to my ram lambs. Horror – I remembered Gail saying that poeey bums were a definite no no. three of my five ram lambs had poeey bums. Ugh!! I had to get this right. I wanted to give a good impression. Help!! Calm yourself girl. It's easy. Get your depoeey bum kit and get on with it.



Wolfhanger Flock

When Alex arrived, we jumped on my electric Gator "Leccy" and bombed down to the field. She viewed my shearing ewes. I think she liked them, I preferred the smaller of the two but Alex preferred the larger – moving on to the ewes, she viewed them from the comfort of the "Leccy" as I slowly drove round them in the field. I think she liked them too, although one is slightly thinner, Alex gave me some advice as to help her get fitter.

Off up to the top to meet the ewe lambs and rams (in separate paddocks). I had penned four ewe lambs for her to cast her eye and her hand over. We discussed their general conformity and a quick stroke of the nose of our new Oxford Down lambs. The rams we viewed from the gate – I don't do rams – Paul does them. We talked about what I am looking for in a ram and what my overall goal is with my flock. I am trying to get what I believe to be a perfect flock as best I can. I explained that I had sold some ewes that were not, in my opinion, what I was looking for but had kept the ones I believed would produce lambs I could be proud of.

The sun was starting to go down behind the trees and it was getting cold. So, back to the house for a cuppa and a biscuit. We continued discussing sheep and after about a two hour visit, Alex left. She certainly gave me "food for thought". Showing is my new passion along with producing a lovely lamb for breeding and the table. That is my opinion and I will strive to do my best to achieve my goals.

Wowie Dunnings
Wolfhanger Southdowns

CAPTION COMPETITION

Nick Page who manages the Goodwood Estate flock was "snapped" whilst dozing at a summer show. Suggestions of suitable captions are invited, the best will be included in the Spring edition of Southdown News.



Advertise your flock 2017 YEAR BOOK

The 2017 Year Book will be an
A4 publication, in full colour.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Full page £80

Half page £40

Quarter page £30

inside cover, front and back £100

The usual £10 per box for the breeders' listing (to include name, address, flock and contact details) will still be available at the current price, including inclusion on the interactive map on the Society's website.

The deadline for copy is January 31st 2017

Please note that all adverts included in the 2017 Year Book will also be included on the website.

Listeriosis- a sorry tale and what to look out for

I had never experienced Listeriosis until this year. It was not fun. I lost three rams and two well grown hoggets. Even so I thought that it would be helpful to give others a reminder of what to look out for and what to avoid.

Back in the day, when I was learning my farming at Ag College the text books all said don't give sheep silage because of listeriosis. The reason being that soil contamination – more likely with less knowledgeable and wetter silage making back then - resulted in the silage carrying the listeria bacteria which are so damaging to sheep but relatively harmless to cattle. And so, since that time until 2012 I avoided any form of silage for sheep, however, 2012 was, some of you may remember, the year with no summer and it was impossible to make hay. My contractor suggested that we make haylage out of a very thick new ley. We made enough haylage for 4-5 years of feed. It was very clean and high quality with a dry matter of about 50% and a much better and more palatable feed. So I have gradually used up this silage over the last three years. Provided the bags kept their seal it kept well. All went well with not a sign of listeriosis, and the sheep were happy. Until...

I came back late one April evening to find a bought in ram lamb in the field groggy and dribbling saliva. He had been out for about two weeks on fresh grass so I thought it might be staggers and treated him with some magnesium and just for good measure drenched him with Ketosaid and left him over night. In the morning, he was no better and then I noticed that a shearling ram was behaving weirdly staring into space (not unlike the stargazy of twin lamb disease) bumping into fencing, slightly drunk.

I was totally confused and brought them both indoors in, rang the vet and spoke to Gail who wondered if the two rams had been fighting and were concussed/ brain damaged. The vet came out in the afternoon and was equally nonplussed. the rams had high temperatures and we noticed a hogget, still indoors that was not quite right. The vet treated them all with antibiotics and analgesics. However, two had died by midnight and the last ram died early the next morning. We decided to send the animals for a post mortem (pm)...

All went quiet for a few days, then following a cool chilly morning another ram lamb developed the dribbling

symptoms, a temperature and going downhill fairly quickly and died within

12 hours. At this stage, we had still not had the pm results, then another hogget now outdoors started to show the symptoms, less dribbly but clearly not well with a temperature off the scale. I gave her every antibiotic we had in stock, it kept her going for two days, but eventually she succumbed. At last we got the pm results. They were totally meaningless as the animals had taken too long to reach the lab. After a discussion with my local vet, he suggested we take this fresh casualty to the Cambridge Vet School for a new and prompt pm, however, before doing that I spoke to their head vet, running through the symptoms and the animal's history. The rams and ewe lambs had been kept indoors to use up the last of the silage and for a few days had been on hay as the haylage had run out. ...”

It seems that the last bale of haylage had more soil in it probably from discrete ground level tears in four year old plastic which together with air exposure meant less acid fermentation which can lead to listeria growth. On the basis of the diagnosis, we treated every animal which had access to this last bale with a long acting antibiotic as a preventative, this I hope knocked on the head any lingering infection.

Looking back what have I learnt ... well, it won't stop me using well-made haylage again, I think the key thing is to check the bale thoroughly for any damage, and ensuring that sheep do not have access to any spoiled/soil contaminated haylage, and to clean the troughs regularly too. The other thing, apart from the symptoms, is to be aware that in the right conditions the infection can flare up some time after the silage is fed in this case it was two-three weeks later. And finally getting the diagnosis right asap so as to use the right antibiotics...

The NADIS website is a good source of background information on sheep diseases www.nadis.org.uk

Patrick Goldsworthy

Further update on bluetongue

Whilst it is good news that 'no news' (of a bluetongue outbreak) is good news, there have been some developments since the update in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Firstly, it is great news that two companies launched vaccines, and the industry promoted the vaccination campaign (see 1. below).

It is important to note that the disease in unvaccinated sheep with no residual immunity can be severe. So for breeding stock the advice is very clear: vaccinate!

Secondly, whilst France has reported eight new outbreaks since Defra's last update on the 21st July, the risk level remains the same as Defra's previous report, at medium, for this time of year. But remember the midge season is not yet over!

<http://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/bluetongue-what-you-need-to-know/>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550364/uoa-bluetongue-btv8-france.pdf

A talented breeder of sheep and poultry

Claudia Camilleri-Goldup from Kent ((Purty's Flock) is a breeder of Chamois Poland bantams as well as Southdown sheep. Her passion for arts and crafts led her to competing in decorated egg competitions at poultry shows where last year she won the Best Decorated Eggs Championship at the National Poultry Show.

It was a natural progression to move from painting chickens to painting sheep, and with considerable success. At the recent Gravesend and Rochester Agricultural Association ploughing match she entered a painted goose egg featuring a Southdown ram in the open craft class and took first prize. Similar success was achieved at Kent Show this year with a Southdown sheep decorated egg.



Claudia explains that the inspiration to decorate an egg originally came from competing at poultry shows and admiring the decorated eggs in the various classes, and thinking that she too wanted to "have a go".

Each egg takes a couple of hours each day over about one week, as the layers of paint have to dry between coats. Claudia continues: "I free hand paint and exhibit all blown eggs from serama to ostrich in enamel or acrylic medium. Wine glasses are also free hand painted with glass paint. All the eggs I paint are blown, cleaned and dried before any painting can be started."

AROUND THE REGIONS

There is a regional Southdown Group within easy reach of most members of the Southdown Sheep Society. All members are welcome to attend any of the regional meetings. For more information about what is going on in your region, feel free to make contact with the breeders listed below.

South West Group

Co-ordinators: **Nicole Peart**
01209 861356
ellieandbaileypeart@aol.co.uk
Adam & Caroline Brown
01398 361245
adamandcaroline@googlemail.com

West Midlands Group

Co-ordinator: **Miriam Parker**
01743 884483
miriam@livestockwise.co.uk

Wales Group

Co-ordinators: **Gareth Lloyd Hughes**
01970 880804
garethlloydhughes@btinternet.com
Dylan Williams
07771 542578
Del2880@yahoo.co.uk

East Midlands Group

Co-ordinator: **Sophie Arlott**
07899 833157
sophie.arlott@btinternet.com

East Anglia Group

Co-ordinator: **Lindsay Dane**
01353 721216
lindsay.dane@icloud.com

Beds, Bucks, Herts Group

Co-ordinator: **Lesley Mead**
01525 270135
lesleyhollybar@btinternet.com

South of England Group

Co-ordinators: **Jessica Cross**
01730 827148
jessica@scotlandfarm.com
Paul Humphrey
01243 811518
nhfcamping@gmail.com

Scotland Group

Co-ordinator: **Mary Watson**
01888 544710
raremary@gmail.com

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

The South West

The South West Region has organised a visit to The Natural Fibre Company in Launceston which is being hosted by Sue Blacker followed by lunch on 24th November. This visit is well supported and booked up quickly by members.

Going forward into 2017 we are in the process of finalising a programme of events starting with a late Christmas lunch sometime in January when we will be joined by Gail who has kindly agreed to give us a talk about the RBST.

In mid to late June a Stock Judging competition with a Trimming Masterclass followed by a BBQ is being hosted by Adam and Caroline Brown at North Hele Farm.

Our final event for 2017 will be a visit to Dunsbear Farm later in the year. Dunsbear Farm is owned by Sue and Rod Moore who are Society members. During the visit we will view their flock, and their herd of pedigree Limousin cattle and Sue and Rod will show us an interesting pre Victorian historic waterwheel

which provided all the power for all the farm machinery on the farm in the Victorian era.

Any other society members are welcome to join us at any of these events. Finalised dates will be advised once confirmed.

West Midlands

The West Midlands Group is organising a get-together on Saturday April 27th at the home of Miriam Parker and Tim Green. Further details available nearer the time, but please book the date!

East Anglia

The National Southdown Show takes place at the Suffolk Show in 2017, and the East Anglia Group will be organising a get-together for all members, friends and exhibitors on the first day of the Show, Wednesday May 31st, once judging is over. More details next year!

Lesley Mead takes stock...

The month of September is always a busy time for shows in my area. So after a small show on August Bank Holiday Monday that I like to support as all the proceeds go to local charities, it was Bucks County show, my local county show where I have been as a competitor, steward and judge most of my life with horses or sheep. It's a ten minute journey and having unloaded the sheep, Chris went to go up the ramp to unload more items when his back went into spasm. He managed to get back to the pens and hoped it would improve. Unfortunately it didn't, and several very helpful folk came to our aid, including Tim Morris, thank you Tim. The medics were called and began to help him. Chris suggested that I went back to the sheep, he knows I am not really any form of nurse!

The medics after a while called the ambulance and he was taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The classes started and I had help from Jack who had actually come without his own sheep. He has a small flock of Zwarbles and I have known his family for many years as I taught his mother at Pony Club.

The showing day resulted in a couple of firsts and reserve championship. Chris's mother Ann was at the show and was able to fetch him home later in the day. The Saturday morning following, Jack and I left for Moreton in Marsh show and had another successful showing morning with three firsts and the reserve championship. However, within a very short time of the classes finishing I collapsed with intense chest pain and was taken off to Cheltenham hospital where I was diagnosed as having had a heart attack. May I thank Steve, Lyn, Catherine, Victoria, Basil, Peter, Jack and many more for all they did (after I had left the showground) to deal with the sheep, the lorry, the fleeces and the ducks (I had bought a pair of ducks first thing!)

I spent a week in hospital and was like a zombie when I got home as I am on a bucket load of tablets, but I am improving. More thanks are due to Alan and Chris who took my show team to Newbury for two days later in the month, a very odd experience to see the sheep go off to a show without me, but they did well, particularly as they won the interbreed group of three on the Sunday.

The following weekend was Gransden show and I asked my GP and hospital nurse if I could go if I promised to do nothing, (although I doubt if they had any idea what a day at a show entails) and so I did go. I was put in a chair in the pens until the classes started and then put in a chair beside the ring. Again, good results - two firsts and reserve championship but this time NO AMBULANCE!

The show season is now over, sadly, but I have already pulled off the list of 2017 shows as although time is dragging for me at the moment, the next season will soon come round.

I am still not driving, but beginning to go out with pals taking me various places and hope soon to be back to normal. Thank you all again for the telephone calls, the beautiful bouquets of flowers, cakes, hot meals, lots and lots of get well cards, shopping and help with the sheep. Southdown members have been so thoughtful.

Love and thanks to you all. Lesley

SOUTHDOWN LAMB

Lesley Mead recently acquired a copy of an interesting recipe book, originally published in 1967 by the East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes. This little book contains a number of recipes, all featuring Southdown lamb and mutton. Nancy Milner-Gulland, Chairman of the local Federation at the time of publication, comments in her foreword:...."I love the sight of the sheep on the Downs so much that it almost shames me to admit how greatly I enjoy the flavour of English lamb on my palate...I hope "Southdown Lamb" will skip merrily into a multitude of households, bringing with it many a good meal - and may the flocks for ever flourish on the thyme and turf of our Sussex downland."



SOUTHDOWN LAMB



First Edition 1967

Published by THE EAST SUSSEX FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
Westgate Street, Lewes, Sussex

Printed by Charles Clark (Haywards Heath) Ltd., Sussex

Lesley has picked out a few of her favourites recipes:

Lamb chops tropicana

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 loin chops, thickly cut | 1 dessertsp brown sugar |
| 1/2cup chopped peaches drained | 1 desertsp melted butter |
| 3/4 cup crushed pineapple, drained | 4 tablesp white breadcrumbs |
| parsley | |

Remove skin from the chops, twist the thin end round to form a good shape and secure with cocktail sticks. Brown on both sides in hot fat and lift into a shallow ovenproof dish. Combine the fruit, breadcrumbs, sugar and butter, mix well and pile onto the chops. Bake in a moderate oven for 20 - 25 minutes. Garnish with parsley before serving.

Pilau of Mutton

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 lb middle neck of lamb | 1 onion |
| 1 teasp curry powder | 2 tomatoes |
| 4 oz rice | 1 teasp chopped parsley |
| 1/2 teasp cinnamon | onions and sultanas for garnishing |

Wash meat and put into saucepan, pour over it sufficient boiling water to half cover it and add the sliced onion. Bring to boil and cook slowly for 1 hour.

Wash the rice, slice the tomatoes and add to the pan with the curry powder, cinnamon and seasoning. Simmer gently for another hour stirring occasionally.

Put meat in a hot dish and arrange rice round it. Garnish with fried onions and sultanas.

Swedish Roast Leg of Lamb

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 4 lb leg | 1/2 pint made coffee |
| seasoning | 1 tablesp cream |
| 2 tablesp flour | 1/2pt milk |
| 1 teasp sugar | 1 teasp redcurrant jelly |

Rub the meat with salt and pepper and roast in moderate oven for 1 1/2 hours. Mix coffee with sugar and cream and pour over the roast and continue to roast for another hour, basting from time to time.

Remove on to a serving dish and keep warm. Strain off liquid and skim off fat. Add milk to this stock and make 1 pint in all. Add 2 tablesp fat back into pan and place on low heat. Stir in flour and add stock gradually until thick and smooth. Pour into sauceboat and add redcurrant jelly.

2016 Southdown Sheep Society Flock Competition

From the Judge – Mrs Alexandra Long

I would like to thank the Society and members who entered this year's flock competition, it has been most pleasurable and enlightening to see flocks at home, so to say.

It never fails to surprise me the extent to which members go to keep Southdowns, I can only say that with such support the Society is in good heart. My thanks to those who fed and watered me and for sparing the time to show me their flocks.

Given that I had no rainy days travelling the countryside was a pleasure and once away from the motorways the general state of the countryside and agriculture looked positive.

Congratulations to all flocks and to class winners; I was impressed with all class winners, but especially the entries in class B, here I felt the quality and attention to detail were paramount; of course this is as it should be given the numbers kept.

I was especially pleased to talk to the Glaves family regarding the Southdown lamb sold in their butcher's shop and the photograph that Antony showed me of a Southdown carcass cut and ready for the shop, a lesson for any sheep breeder.

Although not a 'given' in the criteria or judging points I was surprised to hear what members ambitions were for their flocks; there was no right answer and they ranged from 'staying alive to deal with them', 'staying fit to work them', 'filling the meat niche' and 'winning prizes' - I think my disappointment was that only two entrants cited 'a uniform flock of Southdowns'.

Returning back to the extent that people go to to keep Southdowns, I would at this point make special mention of Louise Chiswell, a young breeder who is a new entrant to farming and sheep, all her land is rented along with the stables for lambing, and who organises all her sheep work around her 'day job/night job' of milking.

Whilst writing this I am also aware of those flocks which are no longer; I would like to mention Nick Page at Goodwood who has the majority of the Whitcombe adult flock with the intention of keeping them 'as is' to retain those blood lines (and the work that has been done by the Whitcombes and Peter the shepherd), rather than blending them into the home flock. This, unfortunately, gives him a disadvantage for any flock competition.

One comes away with little nuggets of information like the use of cheap or used trampolines for sun shelters, great for breeders who rent land and can't put up a permanent field shelter; easily moved so as to avoid mucky ground, but don't forget to tie it down!

Alexandra Long

THE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP SOCIETY FLOCK COMPETITION 2016

Judge: Mrs Alexandra Long

Class A Flock of 40 ewes or over

Winner is awarded the Berkhamstead Rose Bowl and £25

- 1st Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer
- 2nd Goodwood Estate Co Ltd
- 3rd P E Goldsworthy MBE

Class B Flock of 10 – 39 ewes

Winner is awarded the Gaddesden Trophy and £25

- 1st Antony Glaves
- 2nd DG & MY Crundwell
- 3rd Amy Readhead-Higgins
- 4th J Mark Hawtin

Class C NOVICE Competition, not to have won a first prize

Winner is awarded the Frank Grantham Trophy and £25

- 1st Megan Chilcott
- 2nd Louise Chiswell
- 3rd Isabelle-Alice Dunnings
- 4th Peter Fox

Tufton Beamish Trophy to the Champion Flock
Antony Glaves

Reserve: DG & MY Crundwell

Hobgen Salver for the best intake of shearing ewes

Antony Glaves

Miller Hallett Trophy for the best ewe lambs
Mrs Amy Redhead-Higgins

Paynter Wool Trophy for the flock with the best wool

DG & MY Crundwell

Noakes Trophy for the best three lambs of each sex,

sired by a named ram, present and shown
DG & MY Crundwell

The Jim Cresswell Trophy for the best ram or group of rams

Mrs Amy Redhead-Higgins

The Beryl Marsh Trophy for the best newcomer
Megan Chilcott

*All trophies to be awarded at the Southdown Sheep Society Field Day 2017
Trophies to be held for one year.*

Christmas present shopping solved!

If you are still looking for that ideal Christmas present for someone, why not treat them to something from the range of limited edition merchandise commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Southdown Sheep Society!

Anniversary tie in blue silk - £20

Pin badge - £1

Bone china mug - £5

Recipe Book - £8

Contact the office to place an order. Please note that mugs cannot be posted.

YOUNG HANDLERS' PEN

Holly Lutkin was featured in our Young Handlers' Pen several years ago. Now an "older" young shepherd, Holly is studying at Easton Agricultural College in Norwich, and she brings us up to date on her exploits, and shares her advice with other young shepherds.

Firstly, a bit about me! I work on our family farm based in Suffolk, we farm around 40 head of beef cattle, including pedigree Simmentals, commercial beef and a native fold of pedigree Highlands, and a flock of around 150 breeding ewes, both hill, Scotch Blackface and Cheviots, and commercial sheep along with my own flock of nearly 40 Southdowns, and not forgetting my unproductive herd of Blonde cattle comprising a steer called "Barney" who thinks he's a horse! And to any readers that visited the Lincolnshire Show... yes that was me riding the cow in the grand parade!



Young Shepherd of the Year award. And I would strongly recommend all of you young shepherds to get involved, I have met so many new friends, learnt loads and it has opened up lots of opportunities to me. County shows are another great way to gain experience and get yourself out there as well as advertising your flock and breed. This year has been a fantastic year in the show ring for me, winning breed champion at Aylsham and Berkshire as well as a reserve interbreed title and recently shortwool champion at Countryside Live.

I feel very privileged to be involved in a profession that opens so many opportunities to young people and the amount of support all of us young future farmers get is phenomenal. I have been involved in some amazing competitions this year, both the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society Youth Development Program and the RBST

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Southdown breed who has helped me along the way and I look forward to seeing all your young shepherds' success in the future!

Holly Lutkin



We welcome Southdown Breeders

The Small Shepherds Club was founded in 1977 to help shepherds in Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire with all aspects of keeping sheep from good husbandry to legal issues. Today with almost 300 members we provide free training as well as a great forum for small scale sheep keepers to exchange ideas and for help and advice.

If you want to know more?
Visit www.smallshepherdsclub.org.uk

New for 2017

The following shows have agreed to offer classes for Southdown sheep in 2017:

Lincolnshire Show – June 21st-22nd
achamberlin@lincs-events.co.uk

Tenbury Show – August 5th
tenbury.show@btopenworld.com

It would be good to get a good turn-out at these two new events. Contact the show secretaries by email to request a copy of the schedule.

YOUNG HANDLERS' PEN



Hello everyone, I am Farmer Jack (that's what all my friends call me) and I'm aged 10 and very pleased to meet you. When I was one my parents bought me three cade commercial lambs which I bottled, and that's when my love of sheep began. A few years later they had lambs and my mini flock began. A local shepherd encouraged me to begin showing them. It was then I discovered Southdowns. I asked if I could have some and the answer was yes if you buy them!!! So over the next few years I sold lambs and ewes until my piggy bank had enough and I soon became the proud owner of two ewes and a ram, which I bought from Sid Cook. He has been really supportive and kind giving me lots of tips and advice (but I'm keeping these secret). Also this March we were able to purchase three more ewes from Sophie Arlott. She has also been very kind and when my flock is established I aim to beat her at the Lincolnshire Show (so watch out Sophie!). I've had some success at the shows getting a 1st with my fleece at the Lincolnshire show this year along with seconds and thirds at smaller shows with my ram and ewes. Not bad for a novice. This spring I had my very 1st ewe lamb born at my granddad's farm Upper Hill Rosa. It was a fantastic day. Hopefully next spring we will have more lambs and I will be able to show them later in the year with my little brother who also seems to have caught the bug. We are very lucky because granddad lets me graze some of his land and a close family friend lets me graze his paddock. Which means that I can keep a few more sheep. One day I hope to enter the Southdown Sheep Society flock competition, but I've a few more years of hard work to go yet. My flock allows me to gain so much which I cannot learn at school from meeting people, selling at market, to the hard work involved and it gives me and my little brother, family and friends so much fun and enjoyment together, which I think more people need to do. Take care. I hope to meet up with some of you soon.

Jack Bowles (Upperhill Flock, Gainsborough, Lincs)



Chris & Dave Rhead (Light Oaks Flock in Leek, Staffs) are starting granddaughter Molly off young, she is pictured here helping Granddad Dave with the carding.



Neil Stainthorpe (Biscombe Flock, Selby, N. Yorks.) had additional help at the Masham Show this year when granddaughter Sofia, 3 years old, took part in her very first Young Handlers' Competition. Sofia is pictured here with dad Calum who was himself a previous winner of the same competition when he was eight years old.

Southdown Sheep Society

Registered Office: Meens Farm, Capps Lane, All Saints, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0PD

Secretary: **Mrs Gail Sprake**

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The Southdown Sheep Society can be found on Facebook -

<http://www.facebook.com/SouthdownSheepSociety>

