



# Blackboard

## News update from the Hebridean Sheep Society - December 2011

### Letter from the Chair

The autumn sales are all finished and our tupping here in Leicestershire is also complete. It will not be long before all the Hebrideans are home for the winter and we are hunkering down to the winter feeding routine.

This year's autumn sales have once again given a clear demonstration that demand for good Hebridean breeding sheep continues to increase. Breeding stock prices at both Melton and York were flying, and there was a very strong demand for breeding rams at Stirling, with the eight best all selling at over £200 and top prices well in excess of £400. There is also an increasing demand for Hebridean lamb for the butchery trade. For this in particular we must give credit to Gareth Barlow for his continued exposure in the media, with appearances on BBC Countryfile, BBC Radio 2's drive-time show, and in the Sunday Telegraph magazine.

We are looking forward to a sociable one-day Winter Event on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012**, hosted by Gareth himself in the area where he farms at Castle Howard near York. Full details and a booking form are attached to this Blackboard. These events are a great opportunity to meet other breeders and talk sheep all day, so if you haven't attended before do think about coming along.

On the committee front, we welcome new committee member Peter Farmer and I am delighted that he has also stepped into the role of Vice-Chair for 2011/2012. His experience both as a long-time breeder of Hebridean sheep and in his own businesses will be invaluable.

Our 2011 Yearbook, the Black Sheep, will be the next publication you receive from the Society. Within its pages will be some of the excellent photos submitted for our photo competition, and I would like to thank all those who took part – we have had more entries than ever and they are wonderful to see.

It just remains for me to wish all members, old and new, a very Happy Christmas and a joyful and successful 2012.

*Cathy Cassie*

### We welcome the following new members to the society:

Mr & Mrs Thomson of Derbyshire  
Mr & Mrs Carter of Perthshire  
Frances Forbes of Banffshire  
Terence Bell of Yorkshire  
Alex Lockhart of Selkirk  
Mr D Cruse of Berkshire  
Rick Dipper of Corwen  
Mr & Mrs FitzGerald of Derbyshire  
Mr D Jackson of Shropshire  
Hugh Kilpatrick of Perthshire  
Julie Neale of Coventry  
Carole Duvall of Angus  
Mrs C Morley of Bedfordshire  
Alex Bowers of Perthshire  
Mr M MacLeod of Lewis  
Martin & Diane Hammond of Bedfordshire  
Elizabeth Girdwood of Lanarkshire  
Paul Smith of Warwickshire  
Fiona McPhail of Argyll  
Robert McPhail of Argyll  
Richard Phillipps of Lanarkshire  
Eddie Parsons of Gloucestershire  
Edward Nicholson of Wiltshire  
Greg Marsh of Staffordshire  
Helen Mancey of Staffordshire  
Christopher Lumb of Yorkshire  
Sarah Fletcher of Brigg  
Mr & Mrs Cuthbert of Kinross  
Helen Crowle of Monmouthshire  
Ian Coates of Yorkshire  
Mr A Brown of Durham  
Helen McHugh of Yorkshire  
Wendy Kite of Wiltshire

## Wools of Europe—Lane di Europa

In 2010 we sent a fleece and some fabric to a touring exhibition of Wool from European Sheep. This exhibition is currently setting up in Miagliano, near Biella, Italy.

In addition to this, Consorzio Biella the Wool Company opened a small shop, 'The Wool Box', selling woollen products made by breeders and crafts people of Europe.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this outlet, you can obtain more information from **Emilio:**

[info@thewoolbox.it](mailto:info@thewoolbox.it)

## 2011 Photo Competition

The winners of the 2011 HSS photo competition have now been selected and the winners of the categories are as follows:

**Shows & showing:** Clare Sheveland for 'Headless human wins his class'.

**Portrait:** Ken Ballinger with 'Ewe in the rain'.

**Lambs & lambing:** Ken Ballinger with 'Walkies'.

**Sheep in the landscape:** Ruth Miller with 'Morning sheep scene'.

**Ewes:** Ken Ballinger with 'A storm brewing'.

**Rams:** Ken Ballinger with 'Staying warm in the middle'.

The overall winner was **Ken Ballinger** with 'Staying Warm in the Middle'.

Congratulations to all, winners and everyone who entered some fantastic photos. Some really nice photos were sadly of insufficient quality to consider for the calendar. Could all winners and other entrants who would like their photos considered for the calendar 2013 email their original files asap to:

[helen.brewis@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.brewis@btinternet.com)

The files on flickr are not good enough for the printer.

### WANTED!!

Original Combined Flock Books Edition 1 until year 1994.

Please contact Emily Gascoigne:

[huttonhebrideans@btinternet.com](mailto:huttonhebrideans@btinternet.com)

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Gareth Barlow is looking for 2010 shearing wethers for slaughter. If any breeders have some available, Gareth would be very grateful if you could contact him on: **07800 889121** or email: [gareth@howardianhebrideans.co.uk](mailto:gareth@howardianhebrideans.co.uk)

## RBST: Dorset Support Group Show

Rare & traditional breeds show at Sherborne Castle Country Fair, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, DT9 5NR.

**Monday 4th June 2012.**

The Sherborne Castle Country Fair was established in 1996 and presents a rich and fun programme of events, country activities, stands and entertainment including one of the largest Rare Breed Shows in the country.

The Rare Breeds show has classes for sheep in the following sections:

**Primitive Sheep** - Rare and Traditional, Portlands, Rare and Traditional Longwool, Rare and Traditional Shortwool and Shetlands and also Wool on the Hoof, Young Handler and Fleece classes.

There are also classes for pigs, cattle, heavy horses, light horses and ponies as well as displays of rare breed poultry and goats.

Schedules will be available early in the new year. If you would like the RBST to send you one, please contact:

**Ruth Summerley**, 4 Watercombe Lane, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2ED or email [dorset.rarebreeds@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dorset.rarebreeds@yahoo.co.uk)



## HSS WINTER SOCIAL

The date for the Hebridean Sheep Society winter social will be **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012** at Castle Howard near York.

Gareth Barlow will be doing a 'hands on' demonstration on how to butcher a Hebridean carcass, looking at both traditional and more modern cuts and styles of butchery that specifically suit a Hebridean.

After the butchery demonstration there will be an opportunity to walk around some of the land Gareth farms and to take in the fantastic scenery of the Howardian Hills, before lunch in the Courtyard Restaurant at Castle Howard. For those of you that might want a little retail therapy the courtyard shops will also be open!

The day will start at 10:00am with time to chat and catch up before the butchery demonstration. Lunch is booked for 13:00 at Castle Howard and depart is from the restaurant whenever you feel full!

Price is £10 per person, which includes refreshments on arrival, the meal at Castle Howard is pay on the day.

### How to get there:

The day will start in Bulmer village hall just a couple of miles away from Castle Howard. For Sat-Navs the postcode is **YO60 7BL**.

If you're using a map and coming from the Malton side of the Bulmer; the hall is down the service road on the first right as you enter the village fifty yards after the 30mph sign.

From the York side; go through the village past the Church and round the double bend, you'll see a village green with an oak tree and a service road running down the side of the triangle. The village hall is just at the end of the service road.

Any further queries about the event, please contact **Gareth Barlow** at: [gareth@howardianhebrideans.co.uk](mailto:gareth@howardianhebrideans.co.uk)

### Booking a place:

To book a place, please send a cheque for £10 per each person attending payable to Hebridean Sheep Society to:

**Rita Peace, The Bothy, Rye End, Codicote, Herts. SG4 8SU.**

Please ensure you also list the names of the people attending and any special dietary requirements.

**Cheques to arrive by the 8th January 2012.**



### Messages from the Editor

Please note that the deadline for submissions for The Black Sheep has now passed and it will be published in late February/early March 2012.

Finally, please can you send me any articles for the spring 2012 edition of Blackboard to: [heb.blackboard@googlemail.com](mailto:heb.blackboard@googlemail.com) by **Friday 23rd March 2012**.

Merry Christmas!