

## RAMIFICATION

Dark and Handsome  
Head held high  
Nostrils twitching  
He silhouettes the sky

A frosty night  
Air sharp and clear  
A familiar scent-  
A group of ewes are near

Across the Meadow  
There's a gap by the gate  
He ventures through  
In quest for a mate

Texel, Poll Dorset  
Perhaps an exotic cross?  
Breed doesn't matter  
He doesn't give a toss!!

Vestal Virgins  
Pure and white  
Raped, defiled  
That fateful night

Daybreak dawns  
His night of passion over  
He returns to his field  
The midnight rover.

Mae Faulder

## PINBOARD

**FOR SALE** CR group mugs and notelets available from Ruth Mills and Judith Winstanley, Tickmore, Brimfield, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 4NZ or Tele 01584 711489.

**IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!!!**

**FOR SALE:** Shadowland Frodo ARR/ARQ Shearling Ram, Sire Teme Xtra, Dark colour and halter trained. Also Natural Fibre throws, Fleece peg loom rugs and Mohair Socks.  
Contact Val Howells Tele 01702 218499  
Or view at [www.colouredryelands.co.uk](http://www.colouredryelands.co.uk)

## **SHOW COATS FOR SHEEP**

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ALSO

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# **COLOURED RYELAND NEWS**

**Issue no 27 Winter 2006**



## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY AND  
PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR  
TO ALL CRG  
MEMBERS**

Coloured Ryeland News is the Newsletter of the Coloured Ryeland Group. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the management committee.  
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**Copy deadline for March issue of  
CR news by 12th February to  
Editor Please.**

## EDITORIAL

Well here it is another CRN and this time a new Editor! Yes I was the one who offered my services to give Olwen a break! Many thanks Olwen for the last 10 years and I hope I can do you justice. For those of you who don't know me. I live in Essex and have bred Angora Goats for the last 10 years and have only recently started in sheep, owning our beautiful Coloured Ryelands for the last couple of years so I am very new at sheep scene but enjoying every minute (remind me of that after lambing!) Showing is new to me so I can relate to Paul Harter's article in this issue but it was great fun last year and I can't wait to get out there again in 2007 and if any of you are thinking about it DON'T, just go and do it!!

As far as the newsletter is concerned please keep your articles and photos coming, without them there is no newsletter. Membership of CRG has increased to 81 now so there must be lots of ideas out there for future subjects and even some old ones repeated for us newcomers. I thought we may do articles on craft projects from some of the artistic ones of you out there, our wonderful coloured fleeces can be used for so many things! Photos are lovely, it is great to see the sheep and put faces to names, so keep them coming, maybe we could do an occasional Profile on a member so we get to know them? (Management Committee first maybe!!).

Please let me know what you would like to see in your Newsletter and I will see what I can do.

Any contributions emailed in Word format please and pictures in Jpegformat. If you haven't the technology then still post it to me, I can cope with that

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to this edition, if your article isn't here then it will be in the next one. Enjoy the newsletter and I hope to get your feedback good or bad! *MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL*

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### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007

**Regrettably we are having to increase our subscriptions from January 2007 and it was agreed at the last AGM that this should be a MINIMUM of £6 per annum. This step has been necessitated due to the fact that we are finding it difficult to cover costs of producing a high quality Newsletter 4 times a year and the increasing fees charged for publicity Stand space at Shows.**

**We emphasise that this is a minimum rate and anyone who may like to donate a little more may do so particularly if more than one member of the family wishes to be involved in the group.**

**A separate Membership Renewal Form is enclosed. Please send your completed form and subscription to:**

**The Secretary, Cae Derwen, Church lane, Nantmel, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 6EH as soon as possible after the 1st January.**

**Thank You**

## Staggering Behaviour

Having bought some stock from Olwen Veevers earlier in the year to help establish our new flock Pearling Ryelands, you could understand my dismay to see our new/old ram exhibiting some strange behaviour.

One morning, a few weeks ago, whilst out giving him his daily dog biscuit, things weren't quite right. Usually he slowly walks over; he's an elderly gent, has his head rubbed and takes his breakfast. Not this morning. He staggered over stopped about twenty foot away, tilted his head around to one side and started to walk around backwards in a circular motion. My heart stopped as I remember Bob Webb describing similar symptoms for "The Gidd"

This was to be a devastating blow for our breeding programme. He had already done his work for this year, but we had intended to use him next year as well. Not to mention that he's a pleasure to have around the place.

I spoke to friends and explained the symptoms and the signs weren't good. I was told that the symptoms would worsen over the coming days and that there was not a lot that could be done, it was just one of those things.

You could therefore imagine my confusion the next day to see that the symptoms seemed to have gone. Indeed they have not returned.

The only conclusion we have come up with is that he was in an orchard with his three ewes and when he had finished his duties the ewes were removed and a ram put in with him for company. This has happened just as the apples have ripened and fallen. You can imagine all this manner falling from heaven was too good to ignore; indeed he was gorging himself on them. Yep you've guessed it he was drunk on all the fermenting apples. I noticed that he picked out the rotting ones as his teeth aren't what they used to be. As this behaviour stopped so quickly one can only assume that the hangover must have been awful!

The ram in question is Somerford Zenith and his name is scattered throughout the flock books like confetti. To have lost this ram would have been a blow to everyone who has used him over the last few years. He has quite a following. I'm glad to say that the old fellow is back to his usual self again. Maybe he was just celebrating his recent success with the ladies. Next year we'll leave him some Paracetamol next to the water tank!

Paul Harter

### AGRICULTURAL WASTE REGULATIONS

Have you applied for your

"Registration of Agricultural Waste Exemptions" pack? Farmers must register with the Environment Agency before 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

A number of normal farming practices are covered by the waste regulations but you can apply for regulation exemptions.

To obtain an Exemption Regulation Pack,

contact the Environment Agency's dedicated helpline on 0845 603 3113, or download from [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste).

Olwen Veevers

## Melton Mowbray Show and Sale

The Melton Mowbray show and sale took place on 8th and 9th September . This year it was well supported by both the RFBS and vendors with a lot of interest expressed from the public.

A promotional stand from RFBS and support from both Anne and Ken Jones brought about a lot of interest in the Ryeland breed and a number of people

expressed and interest in Ryeland sheep breeding for themselves now and in the future.

The show took place on the Friday and the results were:

1st and Breed Champion

Mrs P Maddock with Wellside Fitzgerald

2nd and Reserve Breed Champion

Miss P Roddy with Highcroft Dannyboy

3rd place

Miss P Roddy with Highcroft Falstaff

2nd place Coloured

Miss P Roddy with Roddy Fergusson

Then the sale took place on the Saturday, having had a a lot of interest from the public and this year having had the show as well, the prices were very respectable and the top prices were as follows:

Ryeland R am	360 gns	Coloured Ram	80gns
Ram Lamb	65gns	Ewe Lamb	100gns
		Ewes	125gns

Coloured Ryelands gained a lot of interest and members of the public were fascinated by the fact that ryelands as a breed had a recessive gene that could occasionally throw a coloured lamb. This definitely was seen by new people to this breed as a huge plus and is clearly an additional selling point for our breed when compared with other traditional native breeds.

This was a very successful show and sale and we have certainly had a lot of interest expressed both at the show and afterwards in our Ryelands. We certainly sold them to people from as far a field as Norfolk and beyond.

I hope that this show and sale will continue to be as well supported by RFBS in future years and will continue to as successful as it was this year. As it would be excellent to have more Ryeland flocks appearing in the Midlands and there is certainly enough interest in the breed from the public to make this show and sale worthwhile for breeders to attend

Many Thanks to Ken and Anne Jones for their support, advice and the stand they provided which was a great help to everyone during the show and sale.

Paula Roddy

## 2007 SHOWS

### WELSH SMALLHOLDERS SHOW

May 19th & 20th 2007

The RWAS has agreed to provide separate classes for Coloured Ryelands in 2007 and these will be four in number- ram, ram lamb, ewe and ewe lamb. It is important that we support these classes with as many animals as we can, so as to get a good entry in each of the four classes. They have stated that the minimum number of exhibitors they require in each class is 3, and we assured them that we can easily meet this requirement.

Will all those interested in showing at the Smallholders please contact the **Livestock Secretary Rhian Thomas, Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells Powys. Tele no 01982 554403 or email [livestock@rwas.co.uk](mailto:livestock@rwas.co.uk)** to obtain a schedule and entry form before Christmas, as the closing date for entries is usually early in the New Year.

Please support these classes if you can and indeed any that may be held at the other 3 Border shows this coming year- Burwarton, Tenbury and Kington. Our Showing Liason Officer Andy Mcvicar has worked very hard to persuade the Secretaries of these shows to put on separate classes for Coloured Ryelands and it is up to you, the exhibitors to ensure that they become permanent fixtures

If anyone has any suggestions for sponsors for any of these shows will they please ring Andy McVicar on 01686 610615. Apparently it is customary for Show secretaries to ask for sponsorship when any new applications are made for new classes on the schedule.

Thank You

## Autumn Open Day at Ross on Wye

Our last social occasion of 2006 was on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Southlea, Aston Crews, Ross on Wye, by kind invitation of Francine and Stephen Burns, and 16 members and their families attended. Coffee was served on arrival, and an informal discussion took place on Members' plans for showing Coloured Ryelands at local shows next year. Andy McVicar has been endeavouring to persuade the Secretaries of 4 local shows to put on CR classes in 2007 and he asked Members to let him have details of which shows they could attend, and the number of sheep they would be prepared to put forward. All the information obtained will be collated and used when writing to these Local Shows, namely the Welsh Smallholders, Burwarton, Tenbury and Kington.

After a very enjoyable lunch plus barbeque, we were taken on a tour of the farm and were shown the sheep – Jacobs, Coloured Ryelands, and White-faced Woodland, the Dexter cattle, Tamworth pigs, 2 horses, and a variety of poultry. Francine and Stephen also have a small vineyard, and a beautiful "old world" garden.

A total of £34 was raised for Group Funds from the raffle, and sale of plants, and mugs and notelets, and I would like to thank those members who provided prizes.

Francine and Stephen had taken the trouble to clear out their workshop/barn for our use, and I would like to thank them on behalf of all those present for such an enjoyable day, and for making us so welcome.

Marian Thornett

## COLOURED RYELANDS AT CARLISLE

The Coloured Ryeland section at this well supported event continued to gain popularity with an entry of 20: - 14 ewe lambs, 1 senior ram, 2 shearling rams and 3 ram lambs, most of which were put forward for sale. The pre-sale show resulted in the section Championship being awarded to a smart April born ewe lamb owned by Sue Trimmings, who also took the Reserve in this section with a nice ram lamb.

The female section got the sale off to a flying start when the first three lambs, consigned by John Fish sold to a top of £140 (twice) and averaged £133. The next lot, the Section Champion, really set the ring alight - bidding was fast and furious and quickly reached £250, but this was not enough to tempt Sue and the lamb was passed out unsold, however an after-sale deal was clinched and she traveled north to Scotland to join Jane Coull's flock. Gordon Brown, a regular vendor at this event, sold his lamb which had been placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in its class to the section Champion, for £170, again heading north to Scotland, but this time to a new face - Alex Leggate from Strathaven who is well known on the show circuit with his Jacob sheep. Will this be the start of a new coloured flock?

Males, as always, met a sticky and very selective trade, the only highlights being £110 received for the Reserve Champion ram lamb consigned by Sue Trimmings and £110 for a shearling ram consigned by young Bradley Norwood from Carlisle. This ram was making a return visit to this event, having been placed Coloured Ryeland Champion last year.

The Coloured Ryeland Group had a stand at the sale, which was this year organized by Chris Smyth and his wife Riekje as Pat had just recently moved to her new home, leaving the tranquil but midge infested forests of Southern Scotland for the Yorkshire moors. Various display boards and leaflets were available to encourage potential members, as were a selection of mugs and notelets. A Tombola was organized in an effort to raise some much needed funds for our Group. Many thanks to all the members who not only donated prizes but also purchased tickets, every little helps. A special thank-you should go to Chris and Riekje Smyth who work so hard to promote our Coloured Ryelands at local shows and events but somehow never seem to get that special mention they so rightly deserve, their support is greatly appreciated by both Pat and myself.

Mae Faulder



Sue Trimmings with her Reserve Champion lamb assisted by Riekje Smyth holding the Champion from the Coloured section— Carlisle

Photo Mae Faulder

### YORK RARE BREED SALE

The place was buzzing but not a lot of buyers

43 entered

Ewe lambs 28, 1 coloured £80, the rest highest was £330 the others averaged £132 to £58

5 were in £100 and the rest £91 to £58, 3 were not sold.

Shearling Ewe 8; 1 not sold, the highest £102, £100(5) £98, £88, £85, £80

Aged Ram 1 white sold for £90

Shearling Ram 2 ; 1 Coloured not sold, the other £135

Ram lambs 3 £120, £68, £58.

**Sandie Lamb**