

Portland Sheep Breeders Group

Newsletter

SPRING 2021



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From the Chair

It's been a tough winter for everyone, but one of the delights of spring is lambing time. Watching healthy lambs chasing around in the lighter late afternoons lifts the gloom of lockdown. We have a public footpath running along the bottom of our lambing paddocks and many more walkers now pause and watch the lambs. Some even stop and ask across the fence (at a social distance of course) what this breed is with the lovely ewes and lambs. Their reaction to my explanation about Portlands and the need to preserve them is always positive. So, even if lambing feels like an extension of lockdown – got to keep washing hands and must not go out except to walk the dogs or for a quick trip to the shop – all that time and effort brings joy to many.

Hopefully, later in the year some agricultural shows will take place. This will give us a chance to meet each other and engage further with the public, but the number and format of the shows remains to be seen. Some have already announced that they will not go ahead but are hoping to re-start in 2022. Many thanks to Sarah Rashley for monitoring the position and producing the list of shows which you will find with this newsletter.

Meanwhile, we can maintain contact online via the PSBG Facebook page, Instagram and website. Thanks to all who contribute to these platforms. The number of people who see what we are doing rises every month. And please don't forget to enter our online show. You can even do it by email if you are not a Facebook user. More details inside. But, above all, many thanks to Pat Ashton-Smith for producing this bumper newsletter while lambing her own Portlands.

Enjoy the lambs,

Stephen

Editor's Notes

*Spring is sprung, the grass is riz
I wonder where the birdie is
They say the bird is on the wing
But that's absurd, the wing is on the bird!*

At this time of year my Dad always used to quote (or possibly misquote!) the rhyme above and I imagine it is possibly familiar to many of you—at least, if like me, you are of a certain age! It is lovely to hear the birds again—in my neck of the woods it is the arrival of Curlews, Lapwing, Oyster Catcher and Plover which heralds spring - and you realise how quiet winter has been.

Their calls will soon be joined by the bleating of young lambs, a time of hard work and disturbed sleep for those of us who keep sheep but also full of wonder with each new birth. I hope your lambing is going/has gone well and that perhaps some of your flock will be entered into this years Portland On-Line Show.

We have a very full newsletter this time—many thanks to everyone who so kindly took the time to write and send me articles. This makes my job so much easier as my constant nightmare is not having enough content to make your newsletter worth reading. Do please keep sending me them! I think there is something to interest everyone in this issue and hope you agree.

If you have a free moment or two those of you who enjoy wool related crafts may be amused by this 2 minute video which shows the history of spinning created using needle felted stop motion animation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLFw2xsxWsU>

Have a great Spring and Summer.

Pat

Portland: a vanguard breed

The Covid-19 pandemic dominated 2020 and will remain as a stark reminder that modern comforts and privileges should not be taken for granted. The farming community is always aware of the danger of disease, having faced BSE, scrapie and FMD, but a human pandemic raised the stakes to a much higher level. On the other hand, the 'Stay Home' mantra provided an opportunity to reflect on more positive activities and lessons to be learned from them. That takes me back half a century!

2021 is the 50th anniversary of a meeting in 1971 that was the first public gathering devoted to rare breeds. Bill Stanley was the main overall driver of the movement and father figure of RBST, but Anne Wheatley-Hubbard, Sir Dudley Forwood and Christopher Dadd were the main organisers of the event which attracted farmers, scientists, academics and many others with more general interest.

Ten years later we already had moved forward at speed. During the 1970s my business partner, Michael Rosenberg, and I created the Ark and the Combined Flock Book to provide a secure registry for breeds that did not enjoy the benefit of a breed society. These were private initiatives which we donated to RBST in the early 1980s. A dinner in Weymouth, organised by Michael Rosenberg in 1980, was the first of a series of social 'celebrations' which built a community spirit among breeders of Portland sheep. That important ethos has continued to underpin the fortunes of the breed up to the present time. Despite occasional disputes and differences of opinion, the Portland family remains a powerful force for supporting the breed.

Initially, we discovered the Portland in three flocks. The first traced back to the early twentieth century in the possession of Mr Hodder but in the 1960s was rescued by Mr Field and then by Alan Marsden. Records of the second began in the mid-twentieth century with Anne Starey from Devon, and this branch was rescued by Pat Cassidy (Anne's niece) and Denys Stubbs (Pat's brother-in-law) in the Milburn and Swinfen flocks respectively, before being continued by Nigel Clutton (Lindens) and Peter Mummery (Chilli). The third flock was founded with stock from Dorset in the late eighteenth century by Sir Henry Harpur-Crewe at Calke Abbey and continues there under the regime of the National Trust. There also were fragments of the breed elsewhere (e.g. Gilbey, Whipsnade) but the total number of foundation sheep was very small. We are heavily indebted to all those breeders for the initial rescue of each flock. They laid the foundations that enabled others to build. Apart from the work by Fiona Mackenzie to maintain the Marsden line as a distinct unit, most other flocks are a blend of all the lines according to their priorities and aspirations.

In the 1970s I introduced a policy of cyclic crossing designed to control inbreeding, and it was adopted by several breeders. Working with John Bowman and Elaine Butler at Reading University I began a series of breed analyses in 1979. 65 founder animals were identified of which 11 were exotic (i.e. non-Portland). The early commitment and dedication within the breed community was evident as 70% of rams (35) and 73% of ewes (107) registered in the early CFB volumes left progeny. In my last analysis in 2011 (animals born 2000- 2010) only 5 exotic founders still were

represented and together contributed only 0.2% of the ancestry of the breed. However, at the same time we regrettably had lost 16 (30%) of the pure founder lines. Despite that potential loss of diversity within the breed, the calculation of genetic factors in 2011 indicated F (coefficient of inbreeding) was low at 7%, and a healthy GCI (founder effect) with no segment of the population becoming dominant. The 'Encyclopaedia of Livestock Breeds and Breeding' (2016) gives GCI as 17.7 and F as 7.5%. However, those figures and conclusions must be taken with a pinch of salt. The RBST's decision in 1991 to accept into the CFB a considerable cohort of animals from Calke Abbey, which had been run as a closed flock, distorted the pattern of results calculated previously. This decision to register the Calke Abbey flock provoked debate at the time, owing to the characteristics and larger size of the Calke animals. It is discussed in more detail by Norman Jones in his book, *Portland Sheep: A Breed With A History*.

Twenty years ago in 2001 the outbreak of FMD in Britain decimated some breeds, but the Portland escaped without serious damage. It also has enjoyed good fortune in other areas. Formation of PSBG in 1992, use of DNA testing to identify introgression, and meat quality trials conducted by University of Bristol in the 1990s all demonstrate a forward-looking attitude. It is hardy breed and I remember being told at an AGM that Portlands were always the last breed to seek shelter in bad weather. Breed-type remains an important issue. In 1986 Frank Bailey and I first demonstrated card-grading at Nallers Farm. It was the basis of the breed standard which identified acceptable Portland type. Now a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of breeders and judges to ensure that correct type is maintained so that the genetic integrity of the breed is not threatened. My priority when I judge any breed is to prioritise functionality (nutrition, locomotion, reproduction) before I evaluate breed type, but correct type is essential. Some of the functional faults (mainly teeth and feet) noticed in the early Portland card-grading have been improved, but I still see evidence that some exhibitors favour large animals. They are put down the line when I am judging. The breed has made huge progress in the last 50 years both numerically and genetically. It is relatively easy to monitor population size, but quality will deteriorate unless positive action continues to maintain standards and type.

Lawrence Alderson



Lawrence Alderson presenting the Portland Championship to Highcroft Bernera, handled by Lottie Cadman at the 2019 Singleton Show.



Flock Focus

First Forays Into Portlands

Julie Baber

For years I only kept dark fleeced sheep – a hundred plus Black Welsh Mountain and a small flock of Hebrideans. More recently, however, I had accidentally accumulated a handful of others – a Castlemilk Moorit wether that could jump a five-bar gate from a standstill, a pet commercial from my daughter's lambing job, and four white Welsh Mountain ewes as a result of a recessive gene that came through in (a now phased out) part of the black flock.

As beautiful as the chocolate brown fleece of the Black Welsh Mountain is, it has its limitations. So, three years ago I decided to increase the percentage of light fleeced sheep to broaden the potential range of my developing wool business.

It's a sad fact that my home county of Somerset no longer has its own unique breeds of livestock, apart from ponies and horn sheep on Exmoor, much of which is in Devon. A Mendip farmer is making a valiant effort to resurrect the Sheeted Somerset cattle – but that's it.

I wondered how a large county with such a long history of wool grown on its hills and moors could have retained only the one breed of sheep, and that confined to its western edge. I wondered what my grazier ancestors would have driven along the Mendip droves to Bleadon Hill or the sales at Wells and Priddy.

In an old book I discovered the only reference I have managed to find of a local native breed. Called the Mendip Horn, it was a small primitive sheep of the South West horned type and was undoubtedly "improved" out of existence.

While I could have chosen from many traditional breeds, I wanted to stay as true to West Country tradition as possible. I chose the Portland over the Dor-

set or Exmoor Horn on the basis of rarity, it being higher up the RBST watch-list.

I hadn't considered how few Portland sheep there are compared to the Black Welsh Mountain or how that would affect sourcing unrelated breeding stock. It took me a while to locate a ram lamb (Armscote Schflerra, otherwise known as Timmy) in Warwickshire and three unrelated (I thought) ewes in West Wales.

Timmy came first and I introduced him to a couple of white Welsh Mountain ewes with soft, well crimped fleece to see what a Portland X Welsh might produce.

We were going to use the trip to Wales as an excuse for a weekend away for two and duly booked an overnight stay in a pub in Tregaron.

That's when it all went a bit pear-shaped. We had a young collie that we were taking to a training and trialling club every Sunday morning. He was particularly good at 'balancing' and I was asked to take him into the pen to demonstrate. All went well at first – I walked one way, Llew walked the other, I turned, he turned. Easy. When I turned again and my weak ankle gave way, the ewes moved away from me as I fell. Llew dutifully pushed them back. A Webber B fracture is an ankle break usually reserved for rugby players but you could say I had been at the bottom of a fairly hefty ruck. It can only be fixed with a metal plate and that wasn't going to happen until after the Tregaron trip.

My husband offered to make a solo day trip to get the ewes but my dedication to the Portland venture (and the prospect of a weekend away) knew no bounds. With hindsight this could be considered a bit reckless. The cramped front seat of a Landrover is not the most comfortable place for someone with a plaster cast on their leg and we had to keep stopping so I could elevate it and take more painkillers. Being high on pain and pills is my only excuse for navigating us on a "short cut" through the mountains. Beautiful but dangerous. The route was steep, winding and icy. The farther we went, the more snow there was. My husband strangely started to question the wisdom of being up a mountain in snow, towing a trailer, in fading light, with no phone signal and with a passenger newly on crutches. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Fortunately, he is a very good driver and we made our destination in time for a nice meal, a few drinks and a good night's sleep (for him at least).

The next day we collected Dawn, Dolly and Diana from their friendly breeders

and, very sensibly, came home by the main road.

We have since doubled our Portland numbers and have four ewes due to lamb soon. Diana and Timmy turned out to be unacceptably close genetically so sadly their ram lamb, Billie, cannot be used as a stock ram.



Portland fleece seems to be growing in popularity. Paul Crooke from Halifax Spinning Mill tells me he is getting significantly more to spin into knitting yarn than he ever has before. Mine is going to a felter in Cornwall who prefers Portland to any other breed.

I'm impressed by the Portland breed and by the helpfulness and commitment of the breed society and Facebook group. I'm sure these lovely sheep have a bright future.

HUSBANDRY

Coccidiosis in Lambs

Last year one of our ewe lambs went downhill rapidly and died at the age of 20 days. There was no sign of a problem with the other lambs or ewes but losing a lamb for no apparent reason was a serious concern. The vet performed a post-mortem, taking samples for analysis. Unfortunately, the testing at the lab was delayed because the country had just gone into lockdown and the results of the PM were inconclusive. At first the vet was concerned that this was nematodirus, which is a nasty worm problem, but that occurs mainly in older lambs. The vet advised that Coccidiosis was more likely as it may emerge from around three weeks of age. She prescribed Toltracol, an oral drench, for the whole cohort of lambs. We had no more losses.

We lambed again in March this year and we did not want another loss, so I did some research on Coccidiosis and spoke to the vet about preventative measures. The NADIS website has a useful section on Coccidiosis at <https://www.nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/sheep/coccidiosis-in-lambs/> The main points are:

Coccidia are single-celled, microscopic parasites. Lambs ingest coccidia oocysts (eggs) by mouth but most of the different species of coccidia are harmless and may even provide beneficial effects. Only two harmful species cause clinical disease (*Eimeria ovinoidalis* and *Eimeria crandallis*) when there is either a heavy infestation in lambs or they have lowered immunity. Inside the gut, the oocysts hatch, invade the gut cells and multiply dramatically. The oocysts shed in faeces can be many million times higher than the number ingested.

It takes two to three weeks from infection via the mouth to passing oocysts from the rectum.

Coccidiosis is most commonly seen in lambs 4-8 weeks old.

On pasture and in buildings the oocysts are very hardy and can survive for long periods including over winter. They are resistant to drying, freezing, heat and many disinfectants.

Ewes also shed low numbers of oocysts which can initiate infection even on clean pasture.

As ever, good hygiene and husbandry is important. Provide clean pens and bedding indoors.

When outdoors keep stocking density low. Clean and move feed troughs etc regularly.

Lambs will acquire immunity through low level exposure. Fortunately for Portlands, singles will usually have better immunity than twins. However, a late lamb born and held in clean conditions indoors but then put out onto pasture heavily soiled by older lambs may be more at risk than the older lambs.

Our vet has recommended that we take faecal samples from the first batch of lambs at three weeks and have them tested for coccidia. We shall see how that goes.

Stephen Tricks

Portland Online Show 2021

Following the success of last years' two online shows and knowing that 'live' shows will not be happening until later in the year your Committee have decided to have one online show this year combining the best of both of last year's events .

The show is open to all but the entries must be of registered/registrable Portlands or using Portland wool. Categories are:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ewe and lamb(s) | 6. Craft - knitted product |
| 2. Ewe (front and side shot i.e. 2 photos) | 7. Craft - woven product |
| 3. Ram (front and side shot i.e. 2 photos) | 8. Craft - not in 6 or 7 |
| 4. Shearling tup (front and side shot i.e. 2 photos) | 9. Caption competition – the photos for this are below |
| 5. Shearling ewe (front and side shot i.e. 2 photos) | 10. A photo to make an advert for the breed . |

Entries should be e mailed by Saturday 5th June to sarah.tricks@gmail.com (and if possible posted on the PSBG facebook page). Entries for the caption competition may be sent by post .

We look forward to receiving your entries – last time we had entries from the Netherlands and all over the UK , something just not possible at a real show .



Photo 1

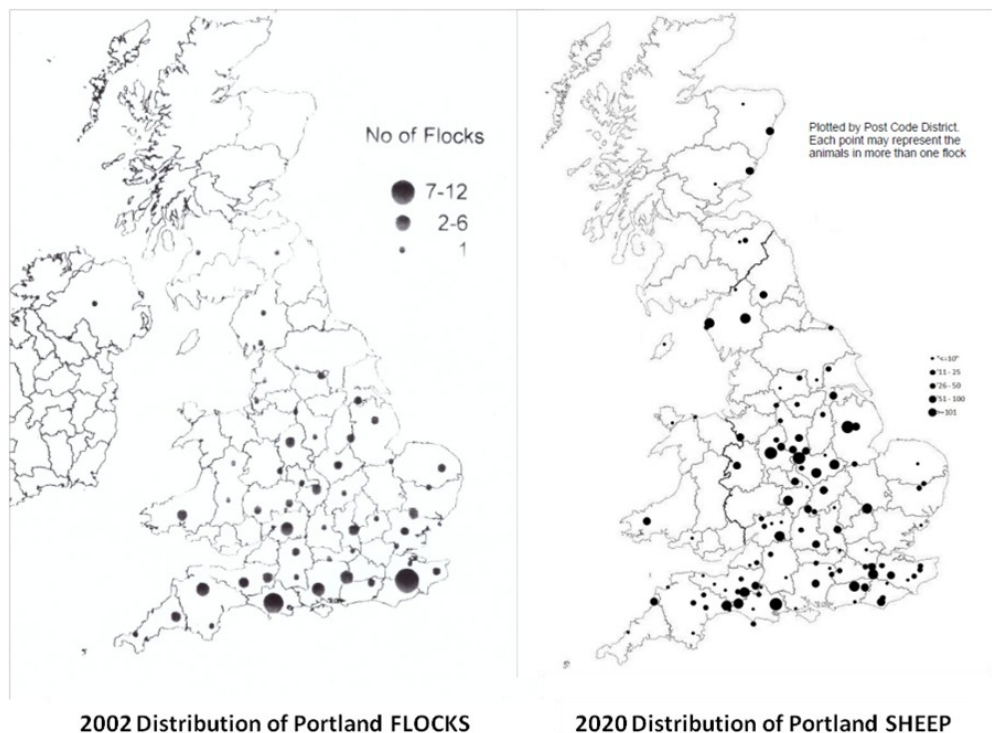


Photo2

THE National Flock of PORTLANDS in 2020 - Part I, Pedigree Registrations

Background

Since 1975 the collation and publication of registration records of Portland sheep has been undertaken by The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST). Volume I of The Flock Book also included nine other sheep breeds and it quickly became known as the Combined Flock Book (CFB). RBST are now the Approved Registration Authority for seven other sheep breeds, in addition to the Portland, which are all included in the CFB. As well as containing individual pedigree registrations, the CFB reports on the responses from breeders to the RBST survey or census of the national Portland flock, currently yearly. The survey for 2020 will be discussed in Part II of this article, in a later newsletter.



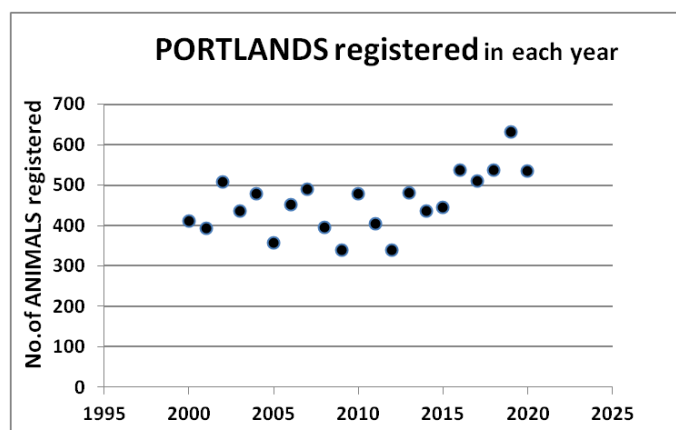
The maps have been reproduced from the Combined Flock Books for 2002 and 2020, with the permission of RBST. They show, at a glance, the geographic spread of Portland flocks and animals from the 2002 concentration in Dorset and Kent to the wider distribution in 2020, across the former areas, the Midlands and further north in Scotland. This dispersion of flocks is advantageous in reducing the risk to the breed from disease epidemics. The National Show and Sale, at its central location of Melton Mowbray, facilitates the exchange of genetics between breeders otherwise disadvantaged by the increased distance between flocks.

Now that the Portland sheep registration records are held digitally, you can register or birth notify your animals at any time and the electronic flock book will be updated. However, as all but the newest members will know, once a year (usually November) a list of all new registrations is prepared and 'published' in the format of the earlier paper copies

of the Combined Flock Book. This shows the individual identification for each new member of the Portland national flock, as well as pedigree details of the sire and dam; essential reading for breeders.

Registration

This article discusses animals in the "A" register, which will have parents and grandparents recorded in the CFB Volume I to XXI or in the "A" Register itself, after 1994. (Under certain conditions, some animals with ancestors recorded in the Supplementary Register may also be included.) It can be interesting and instructive to look at the annual number of registrations, their variability and any trends across the years. The yearly registrations of males and females are shown graphically on page 128 of the 2020 CFB, from 1974, Volume I to the present 47th Volume XLVII. One of the reasons for the short-term fluctuations is that registrations do not have to be made in the year of birth, although birth notifications should always be made as soon as possible. (Earlier flock books have rams of six and seven years old being registered, long after birth notification). Whilst many breeders register females as lambs, the majority register males as shearlings, when they can be checked thoroughly against the breed standard to confirm compliance. Nevertheless, if this approach was applied consistently there should be fairly gentle fluctuations in total numbers. However, for example, the National Trust Calke flock only birth notified animals in 2012, but registered eight rams born in 2009-2012 in the 2013 CFB, together with 37 females born in 2011 or 2012, accounting for about half of the increase in registrations between the years. An eighth of the 2013 registrations were for sheep in National Trust flocks. In 2020 neither Calke nor Kingston Lacy registered any sheep. It is therefore necessary to consider the data over several years for any meaningful population trends to emerge.



Yearly changes in registration numbers

Each year the committee look at the new information from the latest flock book in the context of the historic data. But it is seven years since a summary was prepared for the newsletter and it is very encouraging to be able to report a marked increase in numbers of registrations over the last five years. Prior to 2000 the highest number was 629 sheep from 80 flocks in 1994 and after 2000 the lowest numbers were in 2009 [340] and 2012 [339]. There were several peaks in the early nineties when over 475 ewes and ewe lambs

were registered in the twelve month periods. Currently the maximum number of Portlands registered in a year is 632 sheep from 93 flocks in 2019, but there were about a hundred fewer animals registered in both 2018 and 2020; theories please. Also why has it taken 25 years for numbers to return to previous highs? Are all eligible animals in each year being registered?

The number of flocks registering sheep during the same period shows an up-wards trend, with an increase of 50% from the minimum of 62 in 2009 to the high of 93 flocks. So there is the potential for the registrations to increase as the newer flocks gain experience and confidence and grow in size. You should also be aware that extremely valuable conservation work is taking place under the Supplementary Register initiative. Apologies are due to those flocks and breeders whose sheep are not included in the numbers discussed in this article, for simplicity. However those animals will be eligible for entry in the "A" Register when they are the product of three top-crosses with "A" Register animals; increasing the numbers and contributing valuable genetic resources which would otherwise have been lost to the breed.

From the earlier data it appears that we need an average of over 400 ewe lambs each year as flock replacements to maintain the size of the national flock and our position in the 'At Risk' category of the Watchlist. That figure has been comfortably exceeded over the last five years. But the fluctuations over the last thirty years should prevent complacency in our efforts to conserve the Portland breed. If no flocks lambed for about fifteen years, or no more registrations were made, the pedigree Portland breed would be extinct by 2036!

At the other end of life, the electronic flock book currently shows that Joanna Watson's ewe Burrells Antelope, born on 15 April 2005, is the oldest living Portland, sharing distinction with Ruth Allen's Clarkshill Connie, 27 April 2005. In March 2021 there were also seven ewes surviving from 2006, one each from the flocks Armscote, Clarkshill, Fontmel, Frensham, Marsden, Roydon and Southacre. The two oldest living rams were born in 2009; Skylark Conteh 5 April and Peacloud Leonardo 23 June, a summer lamb. The oldest Southover ram is Zeus born in 2011.

Of course all the comparisons and comments above are only reliable if the flock book data are accurate and it is the responsibility of all pedigree breeders to ensure that their flock records are correct and up-to-date, including deaths. So, whilst wishing all Portland flocks a successful lambing this year, it is also hoped that breeders will provide confirmation by registering, as appropriate. But please also notify all other births, both for the record and for later consideration to register: it is free.

Dyeing and Felting with Portland Wool

At this point I will own up...I am certainly not an experienced dyer! I am learning as I go and thoroughly enjoying myself on the way!

Needle felting has already become an enduring obsession and my house is usually full of woolly needle felted faces and animals. Portland wool is superb for needle felting with plenty of spring and texture. Dyeing is my way of providing my colour palette for needle felting.

During 'Lockdown' I found the time and energy to do larger needle felts. I have now completed three very big (largest 1x2 metres) needle felts. During the first lockdown I used a huge amount of wool from my stash and looked around me for new supplies. I found I already had plenty. I had been previously been experimenting with plant dyes and these provided the perfect materials for the needle felts along with all the bits and pieces acquired at Guild sales and shows.

The first two large felts were 'The Secret Garden' (after the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett) and 'Waterbabies' (inspired by the illustrations in Charles Kingsley's book)

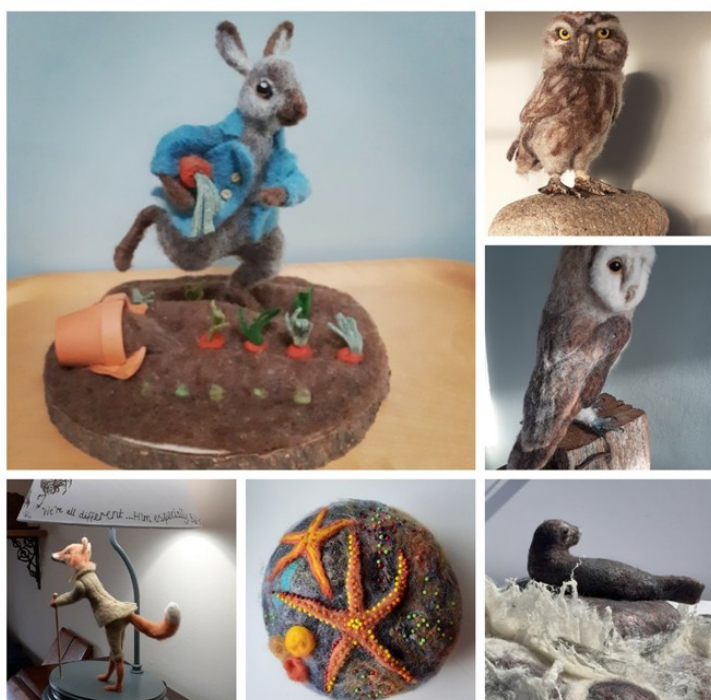


I threw everything I could find into these two large felts – silk fibre I bought somewhere, merino from the days when I thought that was going to be good for needle felting (it isn't!) recycled sari silk from weaving and even Angelina strands. I also used Portland wool which I had experimentally dyed with indigo, madder root, onion, walnut, logwood, Persian berries and cochineal.

I wanted most of my replacement colours to be natural. I have since spent this last summer dyeing with logwood bark chips, more madder root, weld, woad, rhubarb leaves, buddleia, stag's head sumach, elm bark and I still have onion skins to do. The colours are amazing.

Even the dull ones (like rhubarb leaves) have a quality quite different from those in chemical dyes. I probably need more dull colours than anything else for needle felt wildlife models and

other semi naturalistic pieces like the work shown in the collage below.



Some natural colours do quickly fade so I have done experiments to check the dyed wool for fastness. It helps me that needle felts will not be washed but even so the colours do need to stay true in the sun. I do not routinely check for wash fastness but try to check light fastness as far as possible.

I often dye large quantities – second and third dip colours being equally useful for more a muted palette. I often overdy one colour with another. The Portland wool has been excellent. It soaks up the colour. I have found a much brighter logwood purple with Portland wool when other wool in the

same dye pot has produced a quite different lilac blue. I don't know the reason for this but Portland wool has a slight lustre which may make a difference to its dye absorbancy.

My wool is scoured carefully before mordanting and dyeing. I use heat to remove almost all the lanolin as it is not needed for needle felting. An old Burco boiler heats the wool and removes the remaining lanolin after the fleece has been cool washed. I have had no problems with Portland wool felting during this heating process, even when I have let it get too hot! The boiler heats slowly though – and I cool the wool slowly too. I also rarely move the wool whilst it is hot.

After scouring the wool is almost always mordanted with alum in hot water. This opens the wool fibre and prepares it to accept the dye. I reuse the alum bath each time I mordant a new batch of fleece, adding more alum to the solution so I have less liquid to pour away later.

I often dry the wool after mordanting and store it ready for the next plant dye session. After a good overnight soak it is ready to accept the dye bath.

This summer plant dyeing was the perfect Covid 19 outdoor activity with friends!

Even as the weather became colder we sat around the dye pots like witches and the colours appeared as if by magic. Woad (and also indigo) is particularly magical as the colour



only appears as the wool is brought out of the pot and it grows stronger in the sunlight for quite a while after dyeing.

As a relatively inexperienced dyer with a need for quick results, I have recently used dye 'essences' in addition to raw plant materials. I understand essences are made when a dye is dried and the powder produced is then ready to re constitute to form a dye bath. My woad dye came from an essence. Making a woad bath is complex and I wanted to simplify the procedure. I have found essences very useful.

Most of my dye materials have either come from fresh plants or dried plant materials bought online from 'Wild Colours'. There is a great deal of information on the 'Wild Colours' web site and the materials they have provided have been good. My other great source of information and help is the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. I have been a member for some years and they are a fabulous source of knowledge and enthusiasm even during this challenging year.

Most of my work is on Instagram and can be looked at via this link:

<https://www.instagram.com/eileen.07/?hl=en>

I can be contacted through messaging on instagram:

instagram @eileen.07

or by email:

eileen.07@btinternet.com

Membership

A warm welcome to the following new members:-

Michael and Michelle Dales
Spilsby,
Lincolnshire

Willian Turner
Sibsey, Boston,
Lincolnshire

Rebecca Corl
Tolland, Taunton,
Somerset

Henry Nicolls
Penwood, Newbury,
Hampshire

David Sergeant
Clacton-On Sea, Colchester,
Essex

Sharon Jackson and Billy
Woodward
Bishop Middleham,
Co. Durham

Thinking of keeping Portland Sheep or just have an interest in the breed without keeping stock?

For a mere £15 per year and by completing the form bellow you will be made very welcome in our group.

Full Name:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Telephone:			
Email:			
<p>You do not need sheep to join, but If you currently own Portland Sheep we would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the following:</p>			
Flock Name:			
Flock Number:			
UK No.:			
Flock Size	Breeding Ewes:		
	Breeding Rams:		
	Other:		
Thank you			
<p>Membership Fee: £15.00</p> <p>Send completed form, along with payment to:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>Jo Stover Lower Brimley Coombe Farm Stoke Abbott Beaminster 01136703 Dorset DT8 3JZ 01308 867449 07876 560702 jostover@aol.com</p> </div> <div> <p>For BACS payment: Sort code 09 01 55 Account number: Account name: Portland Sheep Breed- ers Group Reference: your name</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">CHEQUES payable to The Portland Sheep Breeders Group</p>			

Recipe

Glazed Roasted Hogget

Ingredients

1 hogget shoulder, bone-in, weighing approximately 1.5kg, excess fat and membrane removed
150ml of olive oil
3 large onions cut into wedges
5 garlic cloves

1/4 bunch of thyme

2 bay leaves

1 tbsp of honey

80ml of Worcestershire sauce
60ml of soy sauce

150ml of balsamic vinegar

500ml of chicken stock
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Preheat the oven to 170°C/gas mark 3.5

To begin, season the hogget all over. Place a large flameproof roasting tray over a high heat and, once hot, add a good glug of olive oil. Add the hogget to the tray and sear all over until a rich, deep golden brown colour – this should take around 5 minutes on each side. Remove from the tray and set aside on a plate, reducing the heat of the hob slightly

Add the onions and garlic to the roasting tray, stirring frequently for around 10 minutes, until they start to turn a nice golden colour. Add the thyme, bay leaves, balsamic vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and honey. Stir well and allow to bubble and reduce for 5–10 minutes

Add the chicken stock to the tray and bring to the boil. Once boiling, place the shoulder back into the tray and use a large spoon to drizzle the mixture over the top of the meat. Roast uncovered in the oven for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, basting frequently with the glaze and onions.

Recipe from <https://www.greatbritishchefs.com/recipes/balsamic-glazed-hogget-shoulder-recipe>

PSBG Merchandise



Notelets

Good quality cards and envelopes

£4.50

Per pack including postage

E-mails are great but a card is that bit more



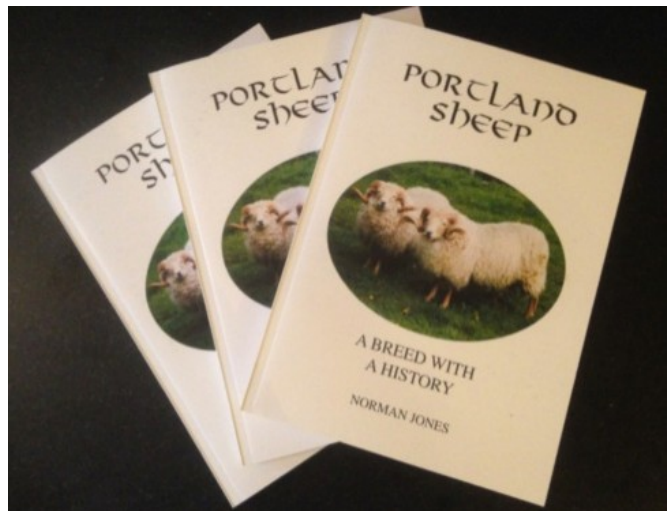
History of Portland Sheep

By Norman Jones

£12 including postage

Hats £15

including postage



To Order

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Reference: Member's name

News from Your Reps

North News

As you may be aware Karen has moved up North to Scotland, and so we would like to say thank you for all the work she has put in down here in the South. We look forward to her support from up there.

As the area is so large it is hard to fill Karen's shoes so the region has two supports now, Hannah Rogerson for the North West and Shaun Smith for the North East.

Just to get to know each other, Hannah and Shaun will be sending out an invitation to those who look after our flocks in the North of England, to a video call during May; during which we hope to arrange a couple of social events, not with sheep, but involving food and drink during August / September. The focus of these events will be to see who has what rams and who needs what breeding for the tupping season ahead, and then to plan the shows in the area for 2022, so the show secretary can help us to promote our breed.

Look forward to catching up soon

Hannah and Shaun

If any Reps have any news/events/happenings in their Region that they would like to share in future editions of the newsletter please e-mail Pat. Contact details on next page.

Stay in touch

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