

Portland Sheep Breeders' Group

Newsletter

Autumn 2018



Michelle Jones

9th July 1939 - 4th of October 2018

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Welcome...

...to the Autumn 2018 Portland Newsletter.

As I write this, sitting in an office high up a tower block in Dusseldorf, probably built by some Geordie builders in the 1980s, looking at blue sky, the Rhine lazily meandering by, barges chucking up and down; all I want is to be in the fields dagging, the joys of a 'Little Shepherd'.

I hope you all have had a successful summer and the heat has not been a life changing challenge for you, it has been a stressful time for many. But the showing experiences you have had seem to have been fun in the sun, so even when no clouds, we have silver linings.

My personal highlights of the last few months were the Melton sale days, it was lovely to chat to such a variety of experienced and new shepherds, people from North, South, East and West'ish, I am sorry to have missed those of you from the far, if not wild west (Anglesey). But sitting with members of the group in our ad hoc evening meal was a delight, hope that is something we can enjoy next year.

The second highlight was the excellent gathering we had, with its informative talks, the relaxed atmosphere, the cakes of Sharon and Sarah, and the wonderful evening meal provided and hosted by Penny and Duncan, with Helen rounding it off with her pudding, thank you all! Mmmm just noting a theme with my favourite events, hope Anne does not read this.

It was great so many of you were able to attend these events, and for those of you who live too far away to attend please keep your eyes open for the show and meeting special for 2019 which we will publish around February, but in the meantime if you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

So how can we build on the work of previous group activities? It is really good to have an enthusiastic committee being led by the ideas expressed by our members, and I am sure we will have an enjoyable time ensuring the future of our little sheep.

Looking at the foundations of previous years it is with personal sadness that I think of the loss of Michelle Jones, a personal inspiration and a friend, but I have great gratitude to have had the opportunity to have such an inspirational lady included in those I have met on my life journey. It is a loss to the group but thank goodness, the Portland found such champions as Michelle, Norman and their colleagues in the early days of the Portland group.

Thank you, Michelle.

Eat, drink and have a merry tuppung season..

Shaun

Editor's notes...

What a Season hopefully everyone had an enjoyable Summer. We are currently putting together a review of the show season, so I have trawled the internet and put in the results that I found, some of the shows have not posted results and the ones that did (and I could not use) did not put up the breed of the sheep and I do not know who had Portland and who did not, so if you have your results and some nice pictures, please let me know.

Hopefully Topping goes well and preparations for the winter is under way.

The Annual event went very well it was an enjoyable day many thanks to Penny and Duncan Gibson, there was a talk on fleeces and a fleece competition 1st and 2nd was Catherine Brewer, 3rd Jacs Taylor-Smith, 4th Sarah Rashley. We had a talk from Emily who is a vet at Synergy, which was very enlightening and thought provoking. Penny had kindly penned 4 ewes for us to talk about there quality's and conformation.

We had lots of tea/coffee and Cake and biscuits and a wonder meal of hogget in the evening. It was an enjoyable day and evening.

Hope you like the new look newsletter and if you would like anything to go in do not hesitate to contact me

Sarah

With Sadness

It is with great sadness that we announce Michelle Jones passed away on the 4th of October following her brave fight. Michelle will always be remembered as one of the inspirational members of the Portland Sheep Breeders' Group and our eternal gratitude will always be with her. A service was held at St. Mary of the Annunciation, Beaminster, which was filled to overflowing with family and friends conveying fond memories which will be treasured forever. Michelle will be remembered and linked eternally with the Portland Sheep Breeders' Group.

Showtime

Get involved for the new season

Showing 2019

We are currently looking at the shows for 2019 and hope to plan an exciting season, more details will be shown in our Show Specials which we will distribute in the Autumn and Spring which we hope will help with your planning for the coming year and allow you to include some of our get together.

If you have show within your area you would like to extend the Portland presence or would

like some support at, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

An idea for 2019 would be 'Portland of the Year'. We would look at a 'Premier Show' in the North, Midlands and, as currently, the South. The Portland champion of these shows would be visited at their home farm at the end of the season and an overall winner would be honoured by the group.

*What do you think,
would this be something
you would like*

Please contact Sharon Stagg on sharonstagg@btinternet.com or Sarah Rashley on sarahrashley@btinternet.com with your thoughts.

Singleton Show 2008
Trio from Southover Flock
by Norman and Michelle Jones



'Something a little different'



Texel Ram on a Portland Ewe

Early March 2017 I arrived at the sheep field as per usual to check on the ewes. Something caught my eye, a large white sheep up at the top of the field. Now, I did not have my glasses on but I thought, gosh that Portland looks HUGE....and very white. To my surprise, in the field with my lovely little Portland ewes was a huge Texel Tup - que a very panicked phone call to my other half and my field landlord.

After much deliberation we worked out who 'Stiv' belonged to and contacted him to ask him to collect him ASAP. His response "ahh no lass, he's a grand tup he'll be ok 'till the morning". (You can imagine my response) 10 minutes later we were all at the field attempting to catch Stiv in amongst my (at this point) very skittish ewes.

Fast forward to tugging time...

...my lovely Ram did not cover one of my girls, he did so well with the others, covered at the first attempt, so I was a bit disappointed 100% of the ewes did not have blue bums.

Fast forward to scanning time-

"this one's early, I suspect in the next 2 weeks"



A few days old



A teenager, 'does my bum look big in this?'



Two years old

Fast forward 2 weeks –

I watched this ewe like a hawk. She was enormous, everyone I spoke to thought she was going to need a section. Then one-day pop! A lovely very Texel looking gimmer lamb appeared. She's now known as 'Tex' for obvious reasons and she looks great. My commercial sheep farming friends even pass an occasional comment about what a good ewe she is - and that's saying something.

This year she will be put to a Portland Ram and the lambs will be sold as fat. Hopefully they will have the great taste of the Portland but with extra weight. As a bonus she has a large soft fleece which spinners love.

Hannah Rogerson

Wooly News



Melton

Sharon Stagg had 1st and 2nd place, winning the Elizabeth Harris Trophy, and then going on to win Champion fleece of the show.

Craft Competition - Sarah Rashley won 1st for best skein of wool (Portland), 2nd for a hand-woven rug and 4th place for a knitted horse, all made with Portland wool.

The PSBG will be supporting 'Wool' events during 2019... further details in the Spring 'Show Special' Newsletter

Gathering

October 2018

A selection of fleeces had been brought to the annual gathering and were judged by the Chairman. The winner was Catherine Brewer. Discussion then followed regarding fleeces, what was the 'Portland' fleece, which fleece would the spinners prefer, how to prepare for showing; but it must be said all the fleeces were high quality and all beautifully presented on the table.

All the fleeces at the gathering were excellent quality, clean, well presented and beautifully soft. Any of these fleeces would have won a prize in many shows. The winner was chosen as it had a great consistency in the crimp and staple length. There were two fleeces in particular that if they had been judged for spinning would have stood out but were slightly looser than that of a traditional Portland.

As the quality of our fleece has become so good we need to tell the world. And the committee, hopefully, by some general marketing will help with raising awareness of how good Portlands are for all types of wool crafts.



Flock Focus

As you will know from earlier newsletters, in recognition for all their work in promoting Portland sheep we have appointed 2 honorary presidents. In this newsletter we will focus on the flock of one of these presidents, in the last issue we focused on Jim Gardener's flock: this issue we'll look at Michelle and Norman Jones' flock. Owing to Michelle's passing we have reprinted this article from a previous edition.

33 Years with the Breed

I have been asked to write a few thoughts for the Portland Newsletter.

This will be the first time in over 33 years we have not to been involved in the happy event of lambing those unique and special little foxy red Portland's. I have missed it very, very much indeed. It is so good though to hear from so many breeders they are enjoying that special relationship with the breed and I hope the year has been a successful one for everyone.

I think back to those early days when I was lucky enough to buy two 'in lamb' ewes from Jim Partridge on Portland in the late Autumn of 1983, and the thrill when those first really rare little creatures arrived in the spring of '84; Southover Cumin P0727a beautiful ewe lamb and Southover Rufus II PO726. Rufus we took to Stoneleigh show and sale that September and sold him to Mr Pashen of the Bitfel Flock. It was such a 'heady' experience.

These were exciting times when we were all trying to save one of the rarest breeds of sheep at that time

During those 33 years we have tried to breed to the best of our ability, being guided by the breed standard. The Portland Sheep is a better animal now than in those early days when there were very few animals to buy. We have had to be 'responsible' regarding state of teeth and feet; and in respect of Rams black spots in hair or wool.

It is sad that there seems to still be misunderstanding at the moment that rams with Black Spots can still be thought to be used in the national flock as registered animals.

Michelle Jones



Michelle and Norman announced their retirement at the Sherbourne show a couple of years ago, selling the farm shortly after. But Michelle finished on a high, winning in a strong class the Sherbourne Show Championship, and later in their final season, the New Forest Show Championship and the reserve. The attention to detail and quality made it hard to 'keep up with the Jones'; they will be sorely missed on the circuit but never forgotten, and it is hoped Norman will be seen with the tea and cake for many seasons to come.

Midlands

Portlands with passports!



We first started discussing the possibility of helping the Belgian SLE and Netherlands VSS (their RBST equivalents) with new blood lines back in early 2013 with the focus on Castlemilk Moorits but also with interest from 2 Portland breeders. I don't think any of the people involved realised just what a lengthy undertaking it would be!

The first step was to contact DEFRA to get copies of the export requirements however the EU legislation at that time stated that only ARR/ARR genotype sheep could be exported live and the same rules applied for semen export – not a lot of use for most rare breeds. Our next point of contact was the RBST to see if there was any special allowance for rare breeds, the Conservation Officer at the time told us that they had raised this with the FAnGR Committee and Bill Lyons at DEFRA, and had been told that they did not take it further as there were already plans to change this requirement. So a waiting game but in July 2013 they announced a new EU commission regulation was being published with details of how the rules were to change and this stated going forward sheep could be exported if ARR/ARR or were coming from a holding demonstrating negligible (3 years free) or controlled (7 years free) risk of scrapie. This opened a doorway for most rare breeds but unfortunately the only way to 'demonstrate' compliance in the UK was to join a scheme run by the Scottish Agricultural College which included various provisions

(such as testing fallen stock for TSE and annual vet inspections) which were only possible to meet going forward. It also restricted new sheep entering the flock to animals with the same scrapie status ie in effect closing both the Castlemilk Moorit and Portland flocks to outside purchases.

After discussions with the European societies representatives they agreed to pre-order sufficient sheep to make it viable to put the flocks into the SAC scheme and plans were made to ensure we had sufficient ram lines within the flocks before we closed them in November 2013.

During the 3 years we carefully checked all matings using the kinship analysis provided by Grassroots, split the ewes into small groups and used multiple rams (between the Castlemilks and Portlands there were tupping groups literally in every paddock!!) with the aim of producing as genetically diverse individuals as possible for export in 2016.

In 2015 we heard from Netherlands that the original Portland sheep breeders who were interested in new stock had given up their sheep and that now all registered Portlands in Netherlands had arrived on one farm that had a range of rare breeds. These 5 ewes, 1 ram and

their unregistered offspring (they had no record of who the individual mothers were unfortunately) were to be the basis for trying to re-establish a registered flock so the new owner joined the project asking for a shearling ram and an additional ewe eligible for full registration in the VSS managed flock book. Luckily the VSS accepted Grassroots CFB certificates as long as they were counter-signed by an RBST representative, though we had initially overlooked that to provide pedigree details going forward we would have to provide date of birth details for every individual sheep in the last three generations but one complex spreadsheet later and it was all accepted.

While we were waiting for our approved status we carried out research and costings for all the additional steps the legislation called for – such as blood tests and health inspections. We estimated that the cost of all the vet based activities would double the cost of the sheep, and we found there were very few vets in the area that were qualified for sheep export. Then there was the cost of transport... it turns out there are very few small transporters geared up to take just a few pedigree sheep (in fact we found just one) and they still charged a high price. We did consider doing the journey ourselves but with only a Type 1 authorisation for up to 8 hours there was a high risk that the journey would exceed this. With all this input and 15 sheep to go to Belgium and 5 to Netherlands, including the 2 Portlands, we knew it was worth pushing on with trying to find a qualified vet and good transporter.

So going into the final qualifying year of 2016 we wanted to ensure all the lambs and shearlings going were really good, well grown, examples of the breed but we also wanted to send a group of sheep with maximum genetic diversity. While the discussions were going back and forth an idea formed that as the sheep could not leave before November due to the scheme qualifying period could the ewes be tupped in the UK and go in-lamb in January/February which would allow offspring from additional rams for the gene pool and also make the additional costs less of a burden as you get 'extra' sheep. No extra pressure then!!

So the candidate ewes were selected and the rams and ram lambs were all assessed and a 'long list' group based on pedigrees was pulled out for extra feeding and TLC while we monitored things like horn shape and markings development. We could only leave the ewes with the rams for 6 weeks as we wanted to ensure any pregnancy was at least 30 days before they started all the handling for blood tests etc so by mid December we had groups of sheep in barns, yards and small paddocks all around the main yard where the vet could easily access them and we could keep a close eye on them.

Then came the paperwork!! Although we had passed our final vet inspection for the SAC scrapie scheme and had our membership certificates, each group of export sheep needed an ITAHC (Intra-EU Trade Animal health certificate). Luckily the co-ordinator for the Netherlands breeders had heard about a commercial transporter from Ireland that was prepared to take smaller groups of pedigree sheep and with the agreement of all parties it was arranged that the sheep for both countries would go together on the same lorry, delivering to Belgium then on to the Netherlands. This made the load viable for the transporter, meant a combined vet visit and reduced the per sheep cost. So with a transporter and a proposed delivery date of 1st February and a local vet, found via a chance meeting at the NEC livestock Event, prepared to do the paperwork we could organise the

blood tests to meet the rule of testing within 30 days of leaving. Then the actual requirements for what to test for was a debate in itself. The DEFRA export office stated the rules were EU wide but then quickly added except for...and listed some examples where countries differed from the standard. Although scrapie monitored the flocks are not MV accredited and there did not seem to be any guidance of whether MV testing was compulsory or not for Netherlands and Belgium so in the end everyone agreed that all sheep should be tested for MV, testing for Brucella Ovis in rams was compulsory and the Netherlands Group decided they wished to test for CL as well so we had a plan and the vet came and took blood from all 22 sheep. Once the blood samples had been sent we completed the 16 page licence application for the DEFRA export office (x 2) and emailed it off crossing my fingers I had done it correctly. The final step in preparing the sheep was scanning for the selected ewes (all but 1 Castlemilk in lamb) and a long acting wormer all round on 29th January. Luckily come 31st January all the blood tests had come back negative and the draft ITAHC certificate had been issued to my vet so just the final inspection and the paperwork to certify the certificate - a process that took 3 hours!! (We even had to ring the transporter's office to get the answer to one question about bluetongue transit zones as we could not find the information anywhere). While we were doing paperwork the transporter lorry arrived... and it was 60 foot long and 3 decks high, a bit overkill for 22 sheep. They were going to have stable size compartments for each group. We could not get a lorry that size onto the sheep yard so it pulled up by the horse barn and we popped the sheep in the trailer a group at a time and loaded them with loads of straw and hay to munch and then stood back and after 3 ½ years of planning waved them off on their journey.

An exchange of emails tracked their journey and apparently a 60 foot sheep lorry looks even bigger in a narrow European village lane but all the sheep came off happily into pens awaiting collection by the different Belgian flock owners later that day. The driver then had a rest period and headed off to the Netherlands where apart from a very short break for freedom by the ewes all the sheep settled in to an isolation barn where they were going to live for 3 weeks as the Netherlands regulations had a stand still requirement for imports. Then on 22nd February the last sheep arrived at their new home and we could all relax.

...and as a final happy ending in mid April Drucilla the ewe produced a nice little ewe lamb which they have called Ehrin.

Stuart Beech
Toplock Flock

Husbandry

Ram MOT

Achieving a good pregnancy rate is only possible with healthy, fertile rams. Highly fertile rams improve the overall reproductive efficiency of the flock by producing more viable lambs in a shorter period of time. It is thought that 10% of breeding rams are infertile and that at least 20% are sub-fertile. Such rams can have a dramatic effect on flock performance and profitability with high barren rates, low lambing percentages and protracted lambing periods. Rams should be given a full MOT annually before tupping.

Pre-tupping ram examination includes the following 4 key areas:

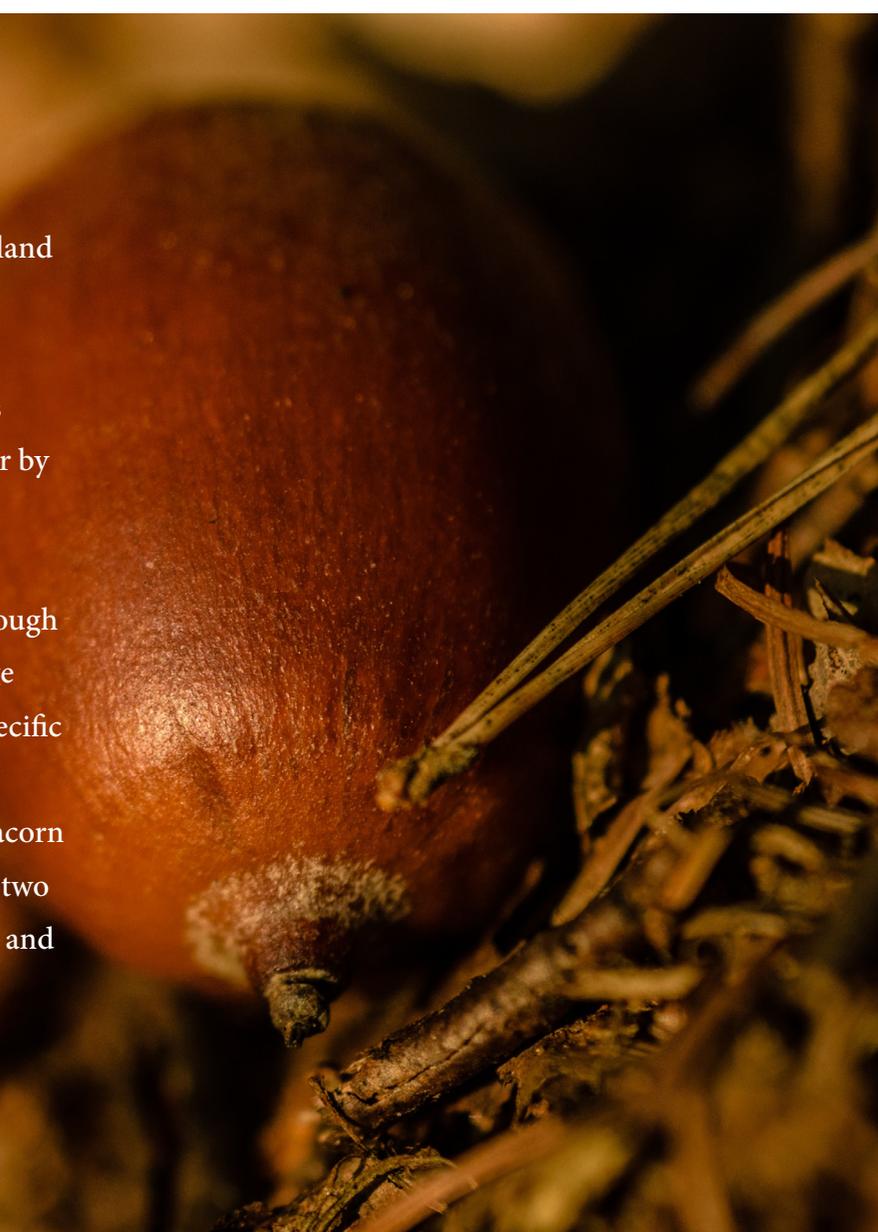
- **Teeth** - Poor dentition will reduce a ram's desire to feed and thus reduce energy for reproduction.
- **Toes** - Lameness has a major effect on ram fertility, reducing sperm production and stopping mounting behaviour
- **Testicles** - Scrotal examination, measurement of testicles, firmness and checking for lumps, also examine prepuce and penis
- **Tone** - General physical examination especially conformation – Body Condition Score 3.5-4/5

Acorn Poisoning

Recently reports have come in from a non Portland flock of a case of acorn poisoning in a group of lambs. Acorns are poisonous to both cattle and sheep. Initially acorn poisoning presents as constipation and abdominal pain, followed later by dark tarry diarrhoea.

Death is common after four to seven days, although some survive longer but succumb to the damage caused especially to the kidneys. There is no specific antidote and survivors perform poorly.

However, if the animals are removed from the acorn pasture in the early stages, most will recover in two to three days, so an awareness of the symptoms and quick action are key to survival.



Kinship

Choosing your ram

Portland Ram Selection

Are you beginning to think about the Autumn and which ram to use or choose to put with your ewes?

Are you unsure as to whether a particular ram is suitable to use with your ewes?

The Kinship Programme can help. The Kinship programme can help to work out the relationship between rams and ewes and whether there is enough diversity in your selection. It is a software tool for determining the connectivity of a flock and a potential ram.

To request the kinship programme be run on a particular flock with a potential ram, email penny@partridgefarm.org with flock name and number, name and number of ram.

The key reason for taking a particular interest in breeding of rare breeds is to ensure that the genetic variation that is present in the current population of Portlands, is continued or increased in the future. This is in order to minimise the rate of loss of genetic diversity.

The Kinship Programme is not the only important tool when determining which ram to use.

The males used must absolutely conform to the breed standard as they are considered 50% of the flock. It is important that potential breeders are aware of this.

In order not to keep too many offspring from one male, changing, exchanging or swapping your ram would encourage diversity.

Penny

**CHECK YOUR RAM
IS
SUITABLE TO USE WITH YOUR
FLOCK**



THE KINSHIP PROGRAMME

EMAIL PENNY@PARTRIDGE FARM.ORG

**WITH FLOCK NAME, FLOCK NUMBER, RAM NAME AND
NUMBER AND WHICH EWES YOU WANT TO USE**

ITS FREE!

Melton Show & Sale

Held on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th September 2018 in the heart of the country the event was a fabulous success, with close to 1000 sheep, from 24 different UK Traditional and Native breeds. On Friday at the market a large gathering of Portland Sheep breeders met and had a chat about Portland's and other things. The sheep were inspected by Jim Gardener and Shaun Smith trying out the adapted grading system. This had an even split of views both on the day, at the AGM and comments received via email after. The group will look at the comments and we will publish some thoughts in the Spring newsletter for your comments.

Overall the sheep entered were of good quality; except for one who only just passed. A couple of sheep had suspect teeth and an exception, who created a debate if to whether to allow to proceed, the old question 'was it a spot?', 'is it a patch?' and 'what if it has both?'

In total there were 27 Ewes, 4 Ewe Lambs, 11 Rams and 1 Ram Lamb.

The Showing of the Portland's attracted lots of entries. The Judge Peter Titley said it was hard to choose and place the sheep as the breed has improved.

Placings

Ewes -	1st Calmara Una - P Robarts
	2nd Valentine Spinner - D Rashley
	3rd Bemborough - Henson and Andrew LTD
Rams -	1st Longhills Crackit - Karen Wilson
	2nd Valentine Sirius - D Rashley
	3rd Valentine Stumpy - D Rashley
Champion	Calmara Una - P Robarts
Reserve Champion	Longhills Crackit - Karen Wilson

With thanks to Judge Peter Willey



Champion with P Robarts.

The Annual General Meeting took place on the Friday evening at the Quorn Hotel with a good debate and some excellent reports from officers on the committee.

It was suggested that this year rather than go to the evening disco we would go to a local hostelry for which Melton is famous, so we could sit and chat rather than look at each other over a musically charged background; a table for 6 was booked 15 turned up! The venue did not blink, sorted out the table and a very enjoyable evening followed.

On Saturday at the sale there were more people who were looking to increase their flocks, and to make new contacts.

Over the two days it was lovely to meet our members from the Netherlands who came to increase their stock and purchase some sheep for a new flock in Belgium. In addition to Portland sheep they have Wiltshire Horns and Norfolk Horns, but it was nice they passed on lovely comments about the friendliness of our group.

To import the sheep they purchased they have to go through a variety of tests, Scrapie, MV etc.... and they must go into quarantine for 60 days. It does not put off these dedicated owners and we look forward to their article in a future newsletter.

So a very good event with most sheep being sold and enjoyable socially, bring on the next one.

A.G.M. 2018

The 2018 AGM was held at Quorn Lodge on 7th September in association with the Melton Mowbray Show and Sale. There was good attendance of members and guests and lively discussion ensued. Shaun Smith was newly elected as chairman and Stephen Tricks was elected as a committee member. Mark O'Regan was introduced as the new Midlands Regional Representative. The final page of this newsletter contains a full listing of the current committee and regional representatives.

Membership grew from 128 at the previous AGM to the current level of 143, which is encouraging in that there is always some turnover of membership from year to year. It was agreed the current membership subscription of £15 will remain at that level for the next year.

In addition to the usual reports, there was discussion on improved communications, of which this newsletter is a part. The website is also in the process of being refreshed and there will be further attention to other communications tools, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, in the coming year.

Recipe

Leg of Mutton étuve

In a remote cottage, tucked into the Welsh countryside, sat a little book waiting to be discovered to give up its pleasures for the benefit of the Portland Sheep Breeders Group. Twilight was setting in and as she browsed through the dusty tomes

Michelle Jones opened its pages to this lovely warming receipt to enjoy 'at the end of the day'.

Ingredients

- 1 Small Leg of Portland Mutton
- 2 Tablespoons Oil
- 300ml (1/2pt) Red Wine
- 1 Medium size can of consommé
- 1 Medium Onion Sliced
- 1 Bay Leaf
- Sprig of Thyme
- Salt and Freshly ground black Pepper

For Sauce:

- 1 Glass of Red Wine
- 150ml (1/4pt) Cream

Method

Heat oil and brown meat put in an ovenproof dish. Soften onion and put into casserole, put the meat back into the pan, season and pour over red wine and consommé, add bay leaf and thyme. Put into casserole dish and cook at a low temperature, (bottom of bottom oven of 2 door Aga) for 5-6 hours. When cooked remove meat onto warmed dish and rest, keep warm. Strain the sauce and reduce it on top of the cooker, add red wine, reduce to about half. Taste for seasoning, then add cream very slowly, stirring all the time - heat but do not let it boil. Serve with fresh vegetables and garnish to taste.



Membership

We extend a very warm welcome to our new members including:

Barry Tomlinson,
Hexham, Northumberland

We hope he enjoys being custodians of our pretty breed of sheep and are grateful to him for helping to sustain them for their future.

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

For a mere £15 per year and by completing the following form you will be made very welcome in our group. Please return your details to our membership secretary; jostover@aol.com

Portland Sheep Breeders Group Membership Application Form		
Full Name:		
Address:		
Postcode:		
Telephone:		
Email:		
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:		
Flock Name:		
Flock Number:		
UK No.:		
Flock Size	Breeding Ewes:	
	Breeding Rams:	
	Other:	
Thank you		
Membership Fee: £15.00		
Send completed form, along with payment to:		
Jo Stover	For BACS payment:	
Lower Brimley Coombe Farm	Sort code 09 01 55	
Stoke Abbott	Account number: 01136703	
Beaminster	Account name:	
Dorset DT8 3JZ	Portland Sheep Breeders Group	
01308 867449	Reference: your name	
07876 560702	CHEQUES payable to The Portland Sheep Breeders Group	
jostover@aol.com		

Just for fun

Word search

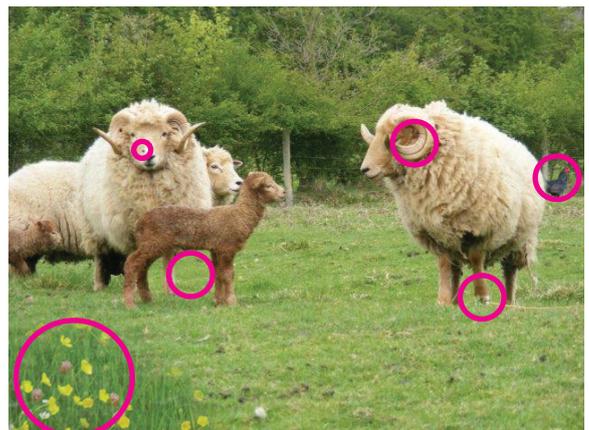
L K J H G F D S A W
U E W E C D E S D S
J G H Y Z W V N Q D
H D T F B R A R T F
C B E Q M L L O F G
R W G R T T A H B H
E Z G R Q C M C A J
W W O R A S B X K K
E P H S D M S P O T
Y U I P O N F D X E

Can you find these words in the table above:

Portland
Ram
Black
Spot
Hogget

Ewe
Lambs
Horn
Crewe

Summer edition answers



Annual Gathering

PSBG Annual Event 2018

The annual event was held on Saturday 20th October at Partridge Farm near Edenbridge, Kent.

The day dawned bright and turned into the most beautiful sunny morning. As members arrived from north, south, east and west, tea and coffee were offered along with delicious cakes made by the committee.

The Chairman, Shaun Smith, welcomed all to the event, and suggested guidelines for the day.

It started with a talk and discussion from Emily Gascoigne, a vet in Dorset who has been involved with OPA and other notifiable diseases within the sheep sector. She is a sheep owner herself and is passionate about conserving the flocks by being aware and vigilant of diseases such as MV and OPA

(see the latest issue of ARK magazine).



progressed written a lovely letter accepting the honour and her desire and thoughts that the group build upon the work on the founders to ensure the survival of the breed. Also honoured was Jim Gardner for his long-standing association and contribution to the group and it was lovely of Jim to respond that although he no longer has the sheep he still looked forward to being involved.

The conclusion of the day was a wonderful hoggett tagine eaten with good company in a setting which perfectly added to the tone of the day.

It was lovely to see such a good turn out and everyone attending enjoyed the company of their fellow members.

Penny Gibson



After another round of teas and discussions, the group looked at a selection of sheep from the Partridge Flock. The main emphasis was on discussion rather than judgement. Our flocks reflect our preferences and the breed standard allows for those to reflect in the sheep we breed; it is important to keep a wide genetic blueprint and so the conversation revolved around the attributes the shepherds were looking for, and which sheep displayed these the best. That said most chose one particular animal as 'best in show'.

The group gathered around and presented Honorary Presidents' awards. Michelle Jones had before her illness



The committee would like to thank Penny and Duncan on behalf of all those attending for their hospitality, hard work and great hosting skills, thank you.

Stock for Sale

Rams for Sale - Marsden Flock

Shearling Rams:
XP8406, XP8409, XP8413

Two year old rams
XP7890, XP7892

All are on the Heptavac P+ system. They will be fully registered on sale.
Please contact Fiona MacKenzie for Details Email: fiona@verifie.plus.com
Tel: 07947 020130 / 01747 841256. Web: www.pret-a-portland.co.uk



Ewes for sale.

A selection of ewes are available from the Armscote flock.



Please visit:
www.armscotemanor.co.uk

Partridge Flock

(South East Region)

A selection of registered Portland breeding ewes of all ages for sale.

Contact Penny Gibson, email:
penny@partridgefarm.org
Tel: 01732 863121 or 07775 664903

Portland flock dispersal sale

(Daventry)

Rams: Harcourt Richard (left), d.o.b. April 5th 2013, Registered, strong, hardy, proven.
and his son Avalon Fabian, d.o.b. April 6th 2017, registered, also strong, hardy.

Ewes: 25 ewes and ewe lambs available, all under 5 years old. reasonable offers considered.

Wethers: 4 wether lambs available.

Contact: Trevor on 01327 361819.



Registered Pedigree Portland Ram

(Staffordshire)

Longhills Rowland P14419. Reserve Champion at the 2018 Royal Three Counties Show. Good to handle, good on the halter, thrown some lovely lambs but now sadly related to too many of my girls. £100 ovno. Telephone Caroline on 07857646788.

Merchandise



Portland Wool for sale

Please visit :
www.armscotemanor.co.uk



Portland Yarn

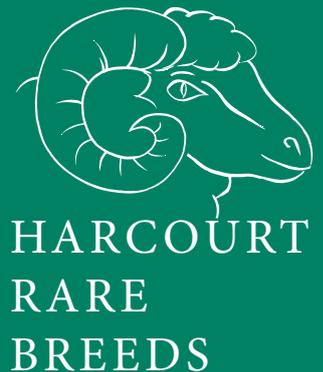
100g skeins of Arran and Double Knit
£10 per skeen.

100g packs -
mixed colours for craftwork
£10 per pack.

Email: harcourtrarebreeds@gmail.com

Tel: 07791 097 351

Web: www.harcourtrarebreeds.co.uk



Partridge Flock

(South East Region)

Portland /Alpaca wool mix

(arran and double knit) and
sheepskin rugs for sale.

Contact:

Penny Gibson,
email:
penny@partridgefarm.org.

Tel: 01732 863121 or
07775 664903



Hawthorn Tree Flock

From the Weald of West Sussex



MEAT :- Hogget and Mutton

Hung for two weeks to mature

Whole boxes of vacuum packed meat

Half boxes of vacuum packed meat

WOOL :- Raw wool

Washed and carded wool

Rugs from a peg Loom

Sheep skin rugs

HORNS :- For stick making

(Black Welsh Mountain products also available)

(Depending on availability)

Please contact for prices

Please contact Helen Butler

gm-hf.butler@hotmail.com



01403741691

Dates for the Diary

English Winter Fair - Staffs 17th - 18th November, Portland Classes

We're compiling a list of upcoming events for the new season.

If there's an event you think we should know about, please get in touch.

Stay in touch

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