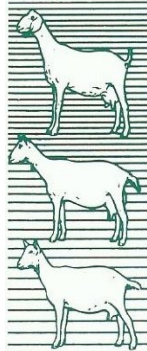


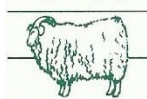
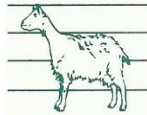
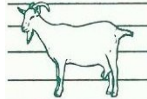
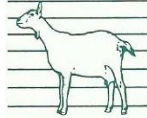
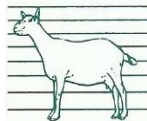
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December 2011

Monthly Journal

Volume 104

Page no 261–284

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Copy date is the first day of the month preceding publication
 All copy and advertisements to reach the editor in good time
 Your classified ads, photographs and news are most welcome

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Adverts must be sent to the BGS Secretary by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

For information on other adverts please contact the Secretary at the BGS Office.

CAE Testing

To obtain the cheapest rates, you should find out from your vet how much it will be to test blood samples locally or alternatively instruct your vet to send blood samples to: SAC Veterinary Services, Veterinary Centre, Drummonhill, Stratherick Road, Inverness IV2 4JZ

Front Cover Picture

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The second Autumn Conference was held on 12th November and was hosted by the Gloucester Goat Society. There was a very good attendance and we enjoyed a wide range of interesting presentations. These events provide an opportunity for members to join together and discuss many goat keeping issues. They also offer the opportunity to hear about the latest plans under discussion by the British Goat Society Committee.

Both Autumn Conferences were successful and depended so much on the goodwill of local affiliated societies offering to host them. I would like to publically thank the members of the Derbyshire Society and the members of Gloucestershire Society for their wonderful efforts in hosting this years events.

Following the death of Mr Thornley earlier this year, the British Goat Society is now in need of a third Custodian Trustee. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held prior to the Annual General Meeting in the spring to invite nominations. This will then lead on to a postal ballot of all members. I would like to draw your attention to the notice appearing elsewhere in this Monthly Journal and to the BGS Rules which outline the responsibilities of Custodian Trustees.

The 2012 Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Northumbrian Dairy Goat Society in conjunction with our friends from the Durham Dairy Goat Society. The venue will be Durham County Hall. This is a popular venue and has good travel communications.

The results from the postal ballot held in respect of Rules 17 and 18(2) were announced at the BGS Committee meeting on 26th November 2012. The proposal to change Rule 17 regarding elections to the Committee was approved and the proposal to change Rule 18(2) regarding the renewal of BGS judge's licenses was also approved. Both Rule changes will come into force on 1st January 2012.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.

Richard Wood

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that the British Goat Society invites nominations for the position of Custodian Trustee. This is an honorary position.

The Rules of the British Goat Society require the Society to appoint 3 Custodian Trustees. Following the death of Victor Thornley earlier this year there is now a vacancy (David Brace and Richard Wood are the other 2 Custodian Trustees)

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held prior to the Annual General Meeting next spring where formal nominations will be accepted.

Anyone wishing to make a nomination must ensure that the person being nominated is in full agreement with the nomination and a seconder has been found.

Please refer to Rule(s) 12, 14, 23 & 27.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

May I wish you a Happy Christmas, peaceful New Year and a successful kidding if you have kids due in 2012. I will look forward to meeting or speaking to you again in 2012.

In this Journal you will find details of the following

- The new Year Book CD, produced by Mr & Mrs Featherstone (page 269)
- The Herd Book CD also produced by Mr & Mrs Featherstone (page 276)
- The 2012 BGS Calendar (page 283)

Best Wishes

Jane

RE-ELECTED JUDGES

The following Judges were re-elected for a further three years at the November committee meeting.

Mr M Ackroyd; Mr T J Baker; Mr P Cox; Mr T Hanna; Mrs H Matthews; Mr C J Nye; Miss D E Oliver; Mr S R Parkin; Mr B Perry; Mrs S Prior; Mr G Smith

LETTERS

Dear Jane

Just a quick note, for you to put in the journal—re last Saturday.

I was privileged to go to Essex on the 19th November for the judge's seminar. There was a licenced judges meeting in the morning, then in the afternoon people like myself who are interested in being a licenced judge were invited to join them for an excellent buffet lunch and an interactive talk by John Matthews. John's presentation certainly worked in getting conversation going. The feed back was extremely interesting as we got to know what several judges' thought about different parts of the goat and how they balanced out their opinions when judging. Also which aspect of the goats make up, they felt most important. It was fascinating to listen to. Unfortunately if they gave such an in depth feed back in the show ring it would take all day just to do the milkers. It would certainly be better than the comments exhibitors normally get, like too much slope or dippy back etc. I tried to join in but it was so enjoyable to listen too. Apart from that everybody was putting it across in technical jargon that I couldn't possibly compete with.

I thank Hilary Matthews and Colin Newton for organising it and John of course for his talk. It was a very pleasurable afternoon.

I must also thank the caterers; it is good to have quality food on the buffet.

Yours sincerely

Martin Cox



NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BGS PRESIDENT

The President of the BGS is elected biennially at the AGM. Mrs Maureen Ross (Balmedie) elected in 2010, therefore ends her two years as President to the BGS at the AGM in April 2012. The Committee would like to thank Maureen for commitment to them and the Society over the past two years as President and the many years beforehand as an exhibitor and goatkeeper.

Nominations for the Office of BGS President are therefore sought by 31st January 2012. The nomination form is available from the office by post or email. The nomination can only be proposed and seconded by members of the Society and must be countersigned by the candidate. The proposer must submit the form by 31st January 2012 to the Secretary and may also submit an election address for the candidate of no more than 150 words.

A copy of each address shall be sent to members with the notice convening the 2012 AGM.

Contact for the nomination form: The Secretary, Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR. Tel: 01434 240 866 Email: secretary@allgoats.com

CLAIMING AWARDS

I would like to remind members that they still need to claim the awards as per our current Rules & Regulations.

We are working towards all awards being credited to your animals as soon as they have qualified and many of you will have noticed that goats who qualified for champion and breed champion status this year will, in most cases, have the appropriate prefix or affix added to their name on Grassroots.

There has recently been a request to validate one male champion and two male breed champions. Some of the inspection awards were gained as far back as 1994 but we presume that it was some time later before they had qualifying daughters.

There are also other awards which need claiming so please refer to the Rules and Regulations in the back of your 2011 Year Book for full details.

If you believe you have a goat which is entitled to an award we would appreciate you contacting the Secretary with the details so that it can be checked and the award published.

Margaret Hardman

COMING UP SHORTLY

David Harwood B.Vet.Med., MRCVS is running a series of four Defra funded goat (two December dates have passed) "Training/discussion" meetings in the South East. Each meeting will run from 10.00 to 14.00 with a break for lunch. These meetings are being run by the Livestock Health South East Initiative.

Please forgive me in that I am not quite sure where the South East starts for this purpose!!

David tells me that his remit is to cover the major health and welfare problems in UK goats and some of the control measures available. DEFRA are hoping that the meetings will attract inexperienced goatkeepers as well as those who are well established, and there will be an emphasis on covering the basics. Do please alert any clients you think might be interested, or any friends of the goatkeepers among you, to these meetings.

Although the sessions will be aimed at goatkeepers, veterinary surgeons looking for an opportunity to brush up on basic goat husbandry will be equally welcome. The dates left are: January 9th at Warnham in West Sussex; January 13th at Thame, Bucks. To book a place please contact Sharon Smith on 01306 628086

A further set of meetings is planned for February, for those outside the south east.

Again the focus will be on goat health and welfare and David Harwood will be the main speaker. At these meetings, which will be evening meetings, David will be accompanied as co speaker by either Sue Smith or Dreda Randall

The dates and venues for these are provisional at this stage

Feb 1st at Launceston

Feb 2nd at Bath

Feb 8th at Worcester

Feb 9th at Peterborough

Feb 15th Sheffield

Feb 16th Durham

Details of venues, content, and booking arrangements for this series of meetings are not yet available.

Nick Clayton

I hope to be able to confirm details in the January Journal and they will also be put on the website in Secretary's Notes

Jane Wilson

FROM the BGS Forum: Having attended the first of David Harwood's talks at Winchester on Friday 10th Dec. I found the meeting very refreshing. Due to short notice unfortunately only about 14 people attended. The whole meeting was intended for those about to get into goat keeping and a reminder for those more experienced. As one that has known David Harwood for some years it is always an interesting talk that he gives. It started with the commencement to keeping goats, what is required by Defra and their welfare, to ailments and diseases of the goat with the emphasis for routine management including worming. The meeting that lasted about four hours, included a lunch which was provided. To anyone interested in Goats I would recommend attending a meeting in the future.

Gordon R George



BGS YEAR BOOKS 1921 – 2010

BGS YEAR BOOKS 1921–2010

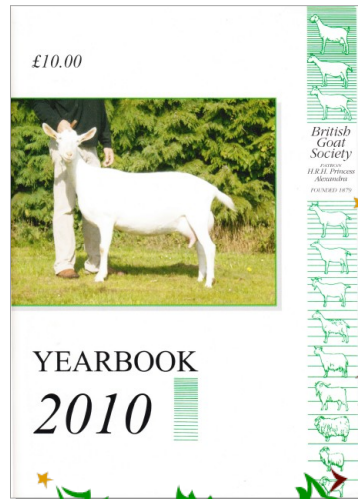
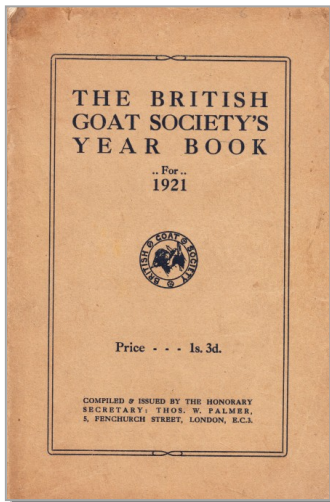
ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON DISC

I am very pleased to be able to inform members that our Year Books are now available on disc. The British Goat Society's first Year Book was published in 1921 and there are no missing years. There is a wealth of information available which very few of you will have had access to before and pictures of goats whose names you will only have seen in pedigrees. The Year Books were scanned by Bob and Ros Featherstone who would like to thank Ruth Candy, Andrew Morrey, Nick Parr and Richard Pemble for allowing their Year Books to be copied - a total of 12,334 pages.

This disc is now available to members at a cost of £25 and to Affiliated Societies at £35. Please send your remittance to the Secretary,
British Goat Society, Gibshiel, Tarset, Hexham,
Northumberland NE48 1RR

May I remind members that the copyright of the data on this disc and also that on the Herd Book disc belongs to the
British Goat Society.

Margaret Hardman



GUERNSEY GOAT BREEDERS OF AMERICA



Members of the Guernsey Goat Breeders of America at the American Dairy Goat Assn. 2011 Annual Meeting, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 16 - 22. Nina Schafer [centre] presented Linda Campbell [left] and Joan Stump [right] with plaques honouring them as a Founder of Breed. Also receiving plaques, although not present, were Mr. Alan Skolnick, who imported the first purebred GGs as embryo transfers and Diane Gray, who bred the first grading up Guernsey's and the first British Guernsey's registered in the USA. Photo courtesy of Joan Stump

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AN EASTER SURPRISE

I blame my love of goats on a school friend's Mum, Mrs Grace Rawlins. She has a smallholding and kept a cow, chickens, pony, Suffolk sheep and two or three goats. The cow and goats are gone now, but I was always over there helping feeding or cleaning something out. I learnt to milk their Guernsey cow, Beauty.

When they went on holiday we used to look after the animals and milk the goats. The seed was set. Now thirty years later, we have our own goats; two beautiful Anglo Nubians. We named one Dierdre and the other Crystal.

My daughter Lucy and I have learnt a lot since having them. We didn't think Dierdre was in kid? About six weeks before she was due, Lucy said "Mum, Dierdre looks rather fat". I actually thought she was not in kid as she seemed to come back in season the month after she was mated.

Had I fed her enough; I decided to give her twice daily, maize, peas, pellets and sugar beet flakes as well as her hay and browse that Lucy and I collected.

I had been used to early mornings lambing our Cotswold sheep this January, March, April so interrupted sleep was the norm at the moment. Day 145 came and went, my vigil was set. It got to day 155 and we went out at 4.30am as usual to look at her. She did not come to the front as she normally did. Pete, my husband said "she's going to have them soon". He had to go to milk his Dad's cows, so I was left in charge.

I was scared because of previous kidding when I was a teenager, the goatling died the next day from a retained afterbirth after producing twins.

I kept checking Dierdre every half hour. You could see her belly had dropped and a kid was coming. I let the geese out, fed the rabbits, checking Dierdre. She looked so uncomfortable. I didn't even know how many she was having, this was her third kidding.

By 8.40am I asked Lucy to come out and hoped Dierdre wouldn't be long now. Then the water bubble came with a head inside (no legs), we waited and waited, nothing happened.

I phoned Pete, he said he would be about 20 minutes. Too long I said, Dierdre gave one almighty push and scream, I'm still on the phone to Pete. The kid's legs were bend backwards as it came out I got hold of its legs and one handedly helped pull it out. I was so relieved. Pete told me to feel inside for any more kids. I gave the kid to Lucy, who put it in front of Dierdre, she immediately started licking it. I could not feel any more in there. I asked Lucy "What is it, What is it?" Lucy says "Mum, your beloved Dierdre's given you a little girl", born 23rd April 2011.

When the kid was a day old, and after much name changing, Lucy said, "Mum feel her ears, they're as soft as velvet". So Velvet is her name.

I penned Dierdre away from Crystal who does wonder what is going on. Now we can look for-

Cont'd on page 274

GROWING AND DEVELOPING A NICHE MARKET FOR GOAT MEAT

By

Marnie Dobson Nuffield Scholar 2010

Previously printed in Farmers Guardian 22/09/2011

Ever since we started Chestnut Meats some 5 years ago I have wanted to talk to others in the industry about how they had broken through to become more prevalent. Some of these businesses have been running for 20 years. I wanted to see how we could develop our niche business of goat meat further and to bring back information to the farming community about growing a niche.

For this I am really grateful to my sponsors the NFU Mutual Charitable trust and to Nuffield for my scholarship.

My scholarship took me to Holland, New Zealand and Texas, USA. Visiting producers of goat's and sheep's cheese, organic fruit growers, venison producers and exporters, and academics.

Why niche?

I asked this question to niche producers to see why they had opted to sell a product like this.

A unique market place,

Where you are able to command a premium for your product, sales volumes will be lower but margins are higher.

There is little competition, but spotlight is often on you and eventually you create competition.

What innovations have I learned to bring back to our business?

After returning from my travels, where I met many inspirational individuals it also got me thinking about business back home and also the industry that we are in.

Who are my customers?

As a business we need to ask ourselves this question and this is such an important one.

When I started this Nuffield experience I thought that I would learn how to persuade the general British Public to eat goat and kid meat. (That there was some way of persuading them). As time has gone on it has become more obvious to me that this is an extremely hard sell. It is very difficult to persuade people.

As Roger Sutton from Delamere Dairy says "It is like pushing water up hill! Most people will neither want it nor entertain it! Why aren't we selling something that people want?" "Look at the iPhone, people queue for one in the Trafford Centre, the trick is to have something that everyone wants" says Roger. I found this an interesting statement.

Sell something that people want!

Why aren't we selling something that people want? And then it dawned on me that we need to sell a niche product to the people that want it.

I have always wanted goat to be the fifth meat after beef, chicken, pork and lamb, but after my Nuffield I have realised that "you have to sell something that people want!" This was reiterated by Robert Cope of Angelo State university who said to me "there is a place for goat meat to feed people. but first you must find the people that prefer this meat"

Target customer groups

I think our business has to really focus on meeting ethnic customers, at times



GROWING AND DEVELOPING A NICHE MARKET FOR GOAT MEAT

we are too concerned with our western market and changing their perceptions of our product in the hope that they will buy, when there is huge potential with the ethnic market.

Why spend so much time convincing people to try goat when there is a ready made market already who know your product?

“Meat Goats and hair sheep fit what the Muslims want to buy, this is the driving force for the market place here” Professor Frank Craddock, Texas. Yes there was a small market for Americans to eat goat and kid in the US, but the ethnic population was driving the demand. There are over 2 million meat goats in Texas.

Get to know your customer, when do they want this product?

For New Zealand venison producers and exporters they have a target market in Europe and their main focus is on the months of October through to December, supplying diced venison for the winter stew market.

In Texas I met producers that were so focused on producing animals for Christmas and New Year, Eid and Ramadam when a premium was paid for their kid goats for the Muslim market.

For others it may be that they produce for Easter, or Christmas or for specific ethnic holidays.

Marketing

Re marketing we are implementing a

new website through partial funding, technology is changing all the time and we need to stay ahead. We use face book and twitter to communicate with potential customers. Other useful marketing channels include: Media opportunities as a niche we have to get involved in free PR from newspaper articles to TV appearances, mail shots and sales calls to prospective customers

Embracing competition

Re competition we are embracing various strategic partners as we cannot grow a niche alone. There is a chance here that we can work towards rearing some of the billies that are currently gassed. In Holland these kid goats are reared as a premium product. We are looking for more rearers of kid and suppliers of goat meat as well as outlets to sell our products.

Food service, Restaurants and Chefs

Goat's cheese and venison broke through onto the restaurant scene through Chefs pushing it and getting it on the menu, the demand has gone from strength to strength. Restaurants are always a good place to start with a niche product and as they pointed out in Holland and New Zealand you need a celebrity Chef behind the product backing it to give it credibility.

In the UK we are fortunate as we have these cooking channels and shows that show case products every week.

The Market place, adapt to it

The UK market place has changed with the price of lamb and mutton which has

Niche Market for Goat Meat cont'd

impacted our business and cut margins so now it is about volume sales. But as a niche we have been able to raise our prices in response.

But the market has lifted the live price of goats and breeding price of goats. So market opportunities have arisen here for pure bred Boer meat goats as pedigree stock. We are investing in new Boer billy genetics from Holland and I am very excited about these new blood lines. We will be changing our herd and breeding for the traits we want for our herd. This was all influenced from my trip to Texas where I learned a lot about parasites. We will be breeding for parasite "resilience and resistance" for sure and culling the goats that are less worm resistant.

Since returning from my travels I have enjoyed doing talks for groups and sharing my findings and experiences. We are hosting the British Boer goat society meeting in October and I look forward to doing my talk on niches and showing them my findings on Texas. I look forward to continuing this and expanding our market place and hope that some of my findings might help others to grow their own niche.

A Nuffield Bonus- goat trough!

I have brought back a free standing goat trough with a unique design from my visit to Texas which helps reduce contamination from goats standing in the feed; we have made a prototype on the farm and hope to sell this to goat breeders.

Marnie Dobson

EASTER SURPRISE CONT'D

ward to watching Velvet grow up and become just as much loved as Dierdre and Crystal.

Who needs Easter eggs when you can actually assist in your first ever kid being born! A very magical moment!

I cannot imagine life without our AN's-now. You can never have a dull moment around them. You don't actually own them, it's the goats that own you.

I would like to thank all the people who helped us with our goats, in particular Joe Henson, Adam Henson's dad of Cotswold Farm Park. We met him in 2010 at Andoversford sheep show. I asked him about the goats there. He said they were short on Golden Guernsey's but knew a man who kept Anglo Nubians near us. To Mr Chris Parkes, without him we wouldn't have our lovely girls.

To all the people involved in the Anglo Nubian breed society, Mrs Edginton and Mrs Stevens in letting us have our lovely little billy; Daycroft Lightning, we are looking forward to kidding next year and hope all goes well. You can never tell with livestock how things will go though.

Sarah & Lucy Robinson

*First published in the
ANBS newsletter.*



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BGS HERD BOOKS 1—135

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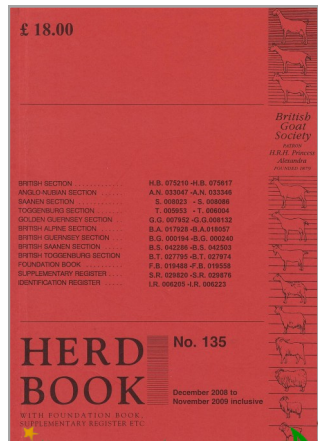
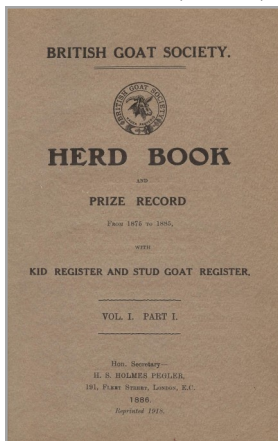
AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON DISC.

As a Society we are so fortunate in having records that go back to 1875. Obviously very few of the ‘early’ Herd Books still exist and those that remain are very fragile so very few members have ever had the opportunity to even view these early volumes. Despite the age of some of the documents, the quality of reproduction is excellent.

There is a wealth of information in these Herd Books – we can see the introduction of all the various breeds – how the champion award evolved, what it took to gain a * at a show. You can research the beginnings of some of the most famous herds. The list is endless.

The disc is really easy and quick to access. Each of the 135 Herd Books are in separate folders on the disc. The sub-folders in each Herd Book are clearly marked eg: Saanen section, list of Q* and * milkers etc. You can also utilise the ‘search’ facility on your computer when using this disc.

This disc is available to members at a cost of £25 and to Affiliated Societies at £35.00 each. Please send your order together with your cheque made payable to the ‘British Goat Society’ to the BGS Office, Gibshiel, Tasset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR





CHAMPION IRISH GOAT'S CHEESE

An Irish goat's cheese was declared Supreme Champion at the presentation of 2011 British Cheese Awards

The hotly anticipated results of the 18th British Cheese Awards were announced this evening at a sparkling event at the City Hall in Cardiff. On the eve of the Great British Cheese Festival and signalling the beginning of British Cheese Week, the great and the good of cheese making assembled to celebrate the Oscars of the dairy world, and the star of the show was a goat's cheese from Stoneyford, County Kilkenny in the Republic of Ireland.

Entries included nearly 700 vegetarian cheeses, 170 raw milk cheeses, 110 organic, 60 blue and over 40 goat and ewe's milk creations. The judges nosed, nibbled and narrowed the field to a list of winners in 22 categories, representing the nation's finest possible cheeseboard and declared Kilree, made by Knockdrinna Farmhouse Cheese the best of the best.

An esteemed panel of cheese experts, food writers, chefs and gastronomes had previously assembled on 8 September to consider more than 900 magnificent entries from nearly 200 British and Irish cheese makers in a marquee on Churchill's idyllic village green, in the heart of the Cotswolds.

The British Cheese Awards were established in 1994 to raise the profile of British cheese and create a recognised symbol of excellence for all British cheeses.

Knockdrinna Farmhouse Cheese has been making cheese since 2004 at a farm in Stoneyford Co Kilkenny.

Their first creations began in the kitchen with some cow's milk from a local farmer. They soon became fascinated with goat's cheese and began to use the best quality goat's milk from the certified herd of Hugh Daniels, a local farmer. Hugh had only a handful of goats to begin with but as the demand for goat's cheese was growing, so too did Hugh's herd. He now milks over a hundred goats which Knockdrinna converts into its now widening range of goat's cheeses.

Hugh has very strong beliefs on how goat's milk should be produced. He believes that in our climate with such an abundance of green grass, goats should be out grazing on pastures, not fed indoors as is now common practice. Hence he is one of the few remaining goat keepers who keeps his goats out on pasture most of the year. Hugh also keeps bees and takes them to local apple orchards to help with pollination. In return he is given windfall apples which he feeds to the goats. They believe this one of the factors which makes Hugh's goat's milk so sweet.

In 2007 Knockdrinna introduced ewe's milk and then 2009 diversified into whey-fed pigs and other farm products sold directly from their farm shop, giving more opportunities to integrate the farm activity with the cheese making enterprise.

"We see ourselves as food producers, and are now looking at our farm as being in a

IRISH GOAT'S CHEESE CONT'D

position to produce whatever food local customers are demanding, The new developments are thanks to our wonderful loyal customers who have encouraged us into these new ventures and are as excited as we are about what new Knockdrinna products are going to come on stream.”



Juliet Harbutt's knowledge and expertise in food and wine, and in particular cheese, has been gained running the British and New Zealand Cheese Awards, judging at various Awards and events around the world and as a restaurateur in New Zealand, a food retailer in London and while researching for countless articles on food and her several authoritative books on cheese.

Since selling her share in the now legendary London wine and cheese shop Jero-boams in 1991, Juliet has shared her passion with cheese lovers around the world as a retail consultant, educator, journalist and in her role as founder of the British Cheese Festival in 2000 and British Cheese Awards, now in their 18th year.

Report by Juliet Harbutt

WILD GOATS

One of the enquiries in the BGS office recently, required some referencing in the archive of Year Books and Monthly Journals. There are several wild herds of goats in the Cheviot hills, the Colleege valley and on Kielderhead moor, we hear about them occasionally. As the office is based in the North Tyne valley, north of Wark and Bellingham but also near the watershed for the Rede valley, I was interested in this article from November 1933 Monthly Journal.


Wild Goats

While it may be somewhat unusual to see wild goats near such villages as Wark, it is in no sense exceptional, for there are still herds to be found on the higher hills in North Tyne and Redewater. They are not perhaps so numerous as they used to be and their haunts may be known to comparatively few, but in addition to localities mentioned wild goats may also be found on some of the wilder regions of the Cheviots.


For many years there has been a herd of wild goats on the Callerhues, one of the highest points on the hills surrounding Bellingham, and which is part of the Blakelaw farm. There are some remarkably rocky defiles on the Callerhues and here the goats have lived and bred practically unmolested for a period long beyond living memory. Old shepherds allege that goats among hill sheep are beneficial to the lamb crop.

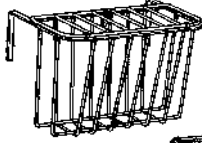
Be that as it may, there is no question that some of the hill goats carry very fine horns. The late Mr Abel Chapman, of Houxty, Wark, a great big-game shot, once stalked and killed what he said was the king of the herd on the Callerhues. He had the head mounted and he said the horn spread was equal to that of any wild goat he had shot in Spain.—Perhaps this is the origin of the office goat on the September front page!


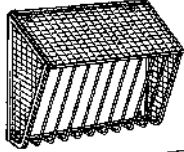
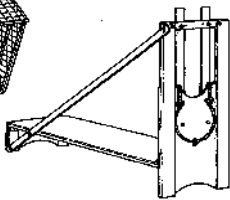
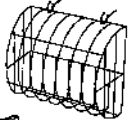




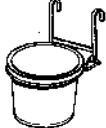



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OFFICIALLY RECORDED YIELDS

Lactation Certificates have been received for the following milkers this year. They are published here unverified and will be published in Herd Book 137 after verification.

These are 365 days (or less) lactations

Goats Name	Yield Kg	Ave B/fat%	Ave Pro %
Kattern Juliet	1818	3.19	2.58
Oakvale Nectar	1396	3.68	2.85

KIDS4KIDS

Founder's Christmas Message 2011 from the Candlelit Christmas Concert

It has been a difficult year for many of us I know but, like me, I know you feel it is a privilege to be able to change the lives of children whose mothers struggle, in abject poverty, to feed and clothe and care for them, with no help from the outside world. It is difficult to convey the absolute deprivation in Darfur. Kids for Kids is blessed to have your support, so faithfully, and so generously. How do I start to thank you for what you have enabled Kids for Kids to do, to help children over these past ten years?

Our government is advising against all travel to the region, because of the dangers of kidnap. How will they be able to judge that foreigners are indeed safe, unless that safety is tested? At the moment, almost no one is going to Darfur. So no-one knows how bad the situation has been getting. But Robin and I did go, despite the warnings. People in Darfur were desperate to come to tell us how we have changed their lives. We visited six of our villages, saw our new handpumps,

counted our goats, and spoke to several hundred villagers. The only foreigners we saw, were with the United Nations. It is not surprising that Darfur has been forgotten and no longer features in the media. But it does put a big responsibility on us. We know. We care. And we know we can do something to help.

Approval for Kids for Kids across the political divide!

At a time when other charities are being scrutinised and prevented from going to Darfur, we were given a VIP welcome. People asked me what form of protection did we have. Well - none. In one village, people were so keen to see us, that they waited all day, because they knew I wanted to check our new handpump. I have two photographs I treasure from that day - a young girl drinking deeply from a jerry can, and a small goat, thinking it was not being watched, quietly coming close, and it too drank deeply. And of course it will be water that keeps the goats alive, and goat's milk that keeps the



children alive, when drought hits again and the crops fail.

It is important that we are seen to be totally apolitical and have support from government and opposition alike. Many of you will remember the deeply moving speech our Honorary President, former Prime Minister, Sadig Al Mahdi, made at our Christmas Concert three years ago, and the touching speech that the Sudanese Ambassador, Abdullahi Al Azreg, made at our Ambassadors' Ball this year. In Khartoum, the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, said that his Ministry supports all that we are doing, especially because we are empowering people to help themselves. Our policy of concentrating on the very basics of life - water, food, health care

and the environment - has been shown to be the most effective way of making lasting change, in the lives of people living in desperate poverty.

For me, the thought of being able to help just one child to have milk to drink, or just one young mother, expecting her first baby, who knows that she has proper medical help right there, in her own village, brings a lump to my throat. The thought that, together, we have changed the lives of so many children, is extraordinary - and humbling.

The Governor of North Darfur stood next to me last month at the Conference he hosted for us, and praised us for providing midwives. He said: "Imagine you are the husband, and your wife started to

KIDS4KIDS

give birth in a village. Put yourself into this situation. Imagine if things get complicated. No father, mother, sister or brother could tolerate this." And yet there is no medical help in most of the villages of Darfur. One of our midwives might be saving the life of a mother and her baby at this very moment in one of our villages.

We started Kids for Kids because of one small child's long walk for water across the desert. There are now 59 villages where children's lives have been changed forever. But to prioritise, when everyone in every village in Darfur needs help, can be shattering. I have to make choices. Last month, old ladies held my hand and begged for blankets. They too are at risk from chest infections. Many of them are stick thin. We have been providing two blankets for the children of the poorest families, but not for the elderly. Should we buy fewer goats, and instead provide blankets for the old people, for the bitterly cold winter nights? It is these decisions that keep me awake at night.

Last year I told you of the exciting, and challenging, changes in the ways in which we are supporting projects in Darfur, to ensure that everything we fund is effective, and reaches the people most in need. What shocked me during our visit, was the extent of that need. With systems now tried and tested, we can plan, with confidence, for the next ten years. All we need is the means with which to do so!

Patricia Parker MBE



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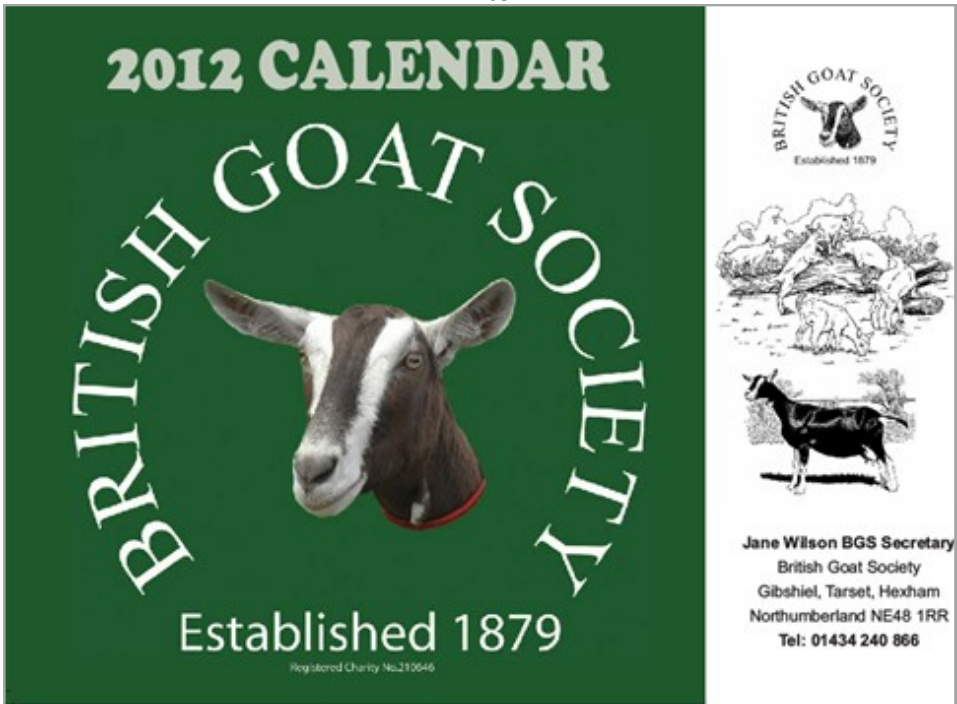
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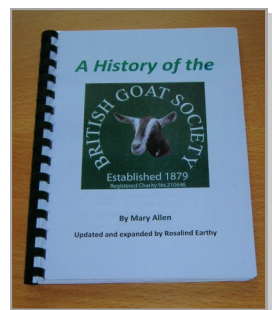
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BGS calendar for 2012 has been produced and copies are available through the office, priced very reasonably at £5 each plus £1 p&p. They are A4 opening to A3.

Only 100 have been printed so stocks are limited.

Please make cheques payable to the British Goat Society and send to Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR



Badge price (including P&P) £3.95 each (10 or more £3.50 each to affiliated societies/clubs, plus postage cost)
Poster (A2 420mm x 594 mm) £7.50 including postage; History of the BGS £7.00 including postage
Contact the BGS Office for all the items above.

HOMESTEAD

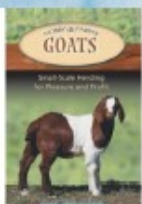
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