

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



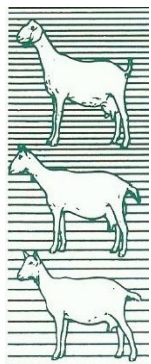
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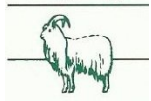
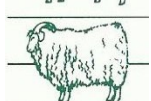
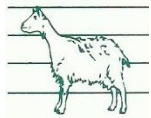
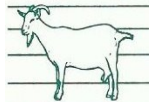
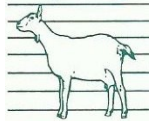
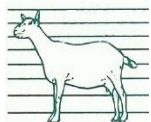
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BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY*Registered Charity No: 210646*

Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR

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Email: secretary@allgoats.comWebsite: www.allgoats.com**Copy Date**

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

Classified Advertising Rates

Up to thirty words just £10.00. Thereafter 25p per word. For boxed adverts please add an extra £5.00. For boxed and displayed add £10.00 to the above rates.

Prices include vat at the current rate and includes free entry on the BGS website.

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,

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Front Cover Picture

Carrick Mairead & the Mairead Cleo Mountains, Dumfries & Galloway

The Carrick Herd Diary starts on page 264

The BGS Monthly Journal (ISSN 2044-7426) is published by the British Goat Society and is available to most classes of members, otherwise it is available for an annual subscription of £20.00 or £2.00 per single copy. There are usually 11 issues per year.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I must start by saying how much I enjoyed the Autumn Conference which was hosted by the Northern England Goat Club on 3 November. Live music on arrival, two interesting speakers, a wonderful array of items offered for auction, a hearty roast beef lunch and birthday cake prior to departure – all the elements to guarantee a grand day out. Many thanks to all connected with Northern England Goat Club who put on a memorable 70th birthday bash for their Club.

A BGS sales table was laid out at the Autumn Conference when orders were accepted for calendars and a selection of our CDs, clothing, tea towels and books were available to buy. Over £300 was realised – a good day's work! Many thanks to all purchasers – please spread the word about our sale items and contact Jane at the office if you are having an event where you think you might be able to sell merchandise for the Society.

Jane is having a week off from 26 – 30 November inclusive so the office will be unmanned – alternative contact numbers will be given on the office answering machine for anyone who has a pressing enquiry, and e-mails will be monitored, but only those requiring immediate attention will be answered.

It is with regret that I have to inform members of the death of Mr Hugh Fortescue on 16 September – obituary features elsewhere in this journal.

I would like to thank members who took the trouble to make their views on the CAE scheme proposals known to me – your comments have been forwarded to Nick Clayton.

Work is progressing steadily with 2012 show results, checking/verification of milk recording data and gathering of copy for the 2013 Year Book with the objective of having the 2013 Herd Book and Year Book ready for distribution during the first quarter of next year.

Agreement has been reached to hold a meeting for milk recording secretaries during the early part of 2013, details of which have still to be agreed upon, but further information will be made known as soon as possible.

Agnes Aitken

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members who are:

Mrs Callon, Lancashire and Miss Moss, Dorset

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The Northern England Goat Club organised and hosted an excellent day at Penrith on 3rd November. Thank you to the organisers and catering staff at the Hired Lad.

The office will be closed from Friday 23rd November until Monday 3rd December.

If you are loaning out stud males this season would you please inform the BGS office so that a record can be kept. Do remember that service certificates can be completed online through the "Manage Your Herd" section of Grassroots. As always books of 50 Service certificate are available from the office on receipt of £6.00 including postage.

There are rather too many online transactions that have not been paid for or a stud certificate has not been sent to the office. These transactions have not been processed. If you know you have not paid or are missing registration documents, please bring your account up to date or contact the office.

With last month's Journal most members will have received a Goat Parasite Survey from Katherine Cornall at the University of Bristol. Katherine says she has had a fantastic response, so thank you. If your survey is waiting for the "right moment" to be completed, please make that effort and send to Katherine.

In line with BGS Rule 17, nominations are now invited from members, for the BGS Committee elections due in 2013. Elections for Ten Members take place triennially. Every Committee benefits from new blood and new ideas and enthusiasm. I hope that members will consider allowing their names to go forward. Nomination forms are available from the BGS Office now and must be returned to the office, dually completed by 31st January 2013. Each nomination requires a proposer, a seconder and the form must be countersigned by the candidate. Each candidate may also submit by 31st January 2013 an election address of not more than 150 words. Do you have the time and commitment to take the BGS forward? Look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes
Jane

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY YEAR BOOK 2013

We are now preparing and booking advertising and photographic space for the 2013 Year Book of the British Goat Society. This is the premier and flag ship publication of the British Goat Society and is read by well over a thousand goat keepers in the UK and also by a significant number of overseas goat breeders too. We would like to invite you to book your space with us for the 2013 edition.

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Thank you for supporting us in these times, it is VERY much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any technical specifications.

I am also pleased to accept articles of interest for consideration for publication. Contact me for details ASAP.

Michael Ackroyd

MALPAS MELBA PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY

Applications are now invited for the Malpas Melba Perpetual Challenge Trophy. If you believe your goat qualifies for this could you please contact the British Goat Society Secretary no later than 31 December 2012. To qualify we would advise that the total aggregate yield must exceed 10,000 kilos. If you have a goat that qualifies and you wish to apply for the award please submit the relevant lactation certificate(s) to the Secretary before the closing date. The Trophy details are below:

The "Malpas Melba" Perpetual Challenge Trophy to be awarded each year to the goat which has qualified for a "star" and which has the highest aggregate officially recorded milk yield, such yield to commence when the goat is first recorded and to terminate at the end of the recording year in which the award is made. The yield of any part lactation up to the latter date shall be included, and the goat's decease prior to, or failure to be in milk at the final qualifying date, shall not disqualify.

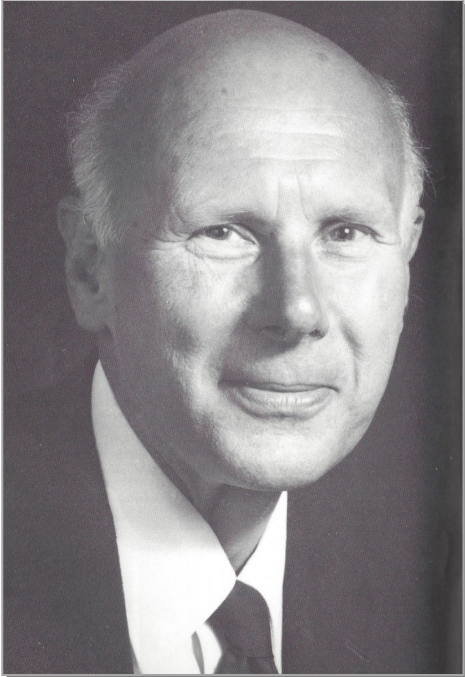
The trophy to be held for one year by the person in whose ownership the goat is registered on the final qualifying date.

HUGH RHUDOLF FORTESCUE 1917 – 2012

It is sad to report that Hugh recently died. He must have been the last survivor of a generation that did so much for the British Goat Society, and to promote the dairy goat and her produce into the public eye.

Hugh started his goat keeping early in World War 2. As a young man he was deemed ineligible to join active service due to injury. He therefore concentrated his efforts on service at home, so as well as being a member of the Home Guard Services he became actively involved in the very important business of home food production, which included back yard house goats.

His organisational skills and energy were



legendary. The amount of public work he undertook was staggering; far too much to even begin to list here so I will restrict myself to what he did for the goat world. He was a founder member of the Surrey Goat Club in 1941, which in the post war years had an enormous membership. For a few years it hosted and organised the biggest goat show in the country. He played a big role in the Club right up until only a very few years ago when old age intervened.

Hugh joined the British Goat Society in 1941. He became Honorary Solicitor to the Society in 1945 and in 1946 he joined the committee. In 1955 he became Chairman of the committee, a position he held for a staggering 25 years until 1980. He continued as Vice Chairman for several years after that, and was our President in 1983-84.

Hugh's period in the Chair started at the bottom of a slump in goat keeping following the end of rationed food. He guided the Society through some very lean and difficult years. Then there was a new awakening in the interest in goat keeping which started in the early 1970s and which saw the membership and activities of the British Goat Society soar beyond any expectations.

It would be impossible to over estimate Hugh's skills as Chairman, or the amount of work and time he put in. Some of the meetings during his period in the Chair were enormous, with everyone wanting their say. And yet he managed these meetings firmly and politely.

HUGH RHUDOLF FORTESCUE 1917 – 2012

One of his great talents was that he knew exactly who to turn to for advice and guidance behind the scenes. So although he seemed to be very much in charge, in actual fact he was putting into effect the ideas of people like Mrs Paine and Miss Rochford who were such talented goat personalities.

As Chairman he was an awe inspiring person, who was always very highly respected. He would certainly stand for no nonsense, but I don't think anybody would have wanted to give him any nonsense! However, locally in the Surrey Goat Club we saw a different side to him, as to us he was all informality, warmth and kindness. I think we were all rather proud to think we had such a highly regarded figure amongst us!

As well as his administrative duties, Hugh was a licenced judge for many years and he judged at all the major shows of the day. He was stewarded at our shows in Surrey for many years, and was Ring Steward at Surrey County Show until only a very few years ago. He took a great interest in all the animals exhibited and followed the judging keenly.

His actual goat keeping sadly was for a relatively short period. As mentioned above he started goat keeping early in the war, and kept a small herd of prize-winning British Toggenburgs under the prefix RHUFORT. However he was heavily involved in a successful family law firm as well as other business interests. He was also a young married man

with growing family commitments. So in the early 1950s he made the sad decision to let his goats go. Luckily for us and the BGS, his great passion for goats never wavered. I am sure that I am not alone in feeling proud and privileged to have known him.

Nick Parr

Ayrshire Goat Club

Changes to the office bearers in the Ayrshire Goat Club, as a result of the AGM held on 2nd September 2012:

Chair: Mrs Lynda Shaw, Kirriereoch, Bargrennan, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire DG8 6TB

Secretary: Mrs Irene McCreath, Polquhanity, Carsphairn, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire DG7 3TA

Treasurer & Show Secretary (remains the same): Mrs Anne Dick, Rowanmyle House, Tarbolton, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5LU
Email: Anne.Dick@sac.ac.uk

JOTTINGS FROM THE TEILOS HERD



The Teilos herd out grazing on a summer evening after milking

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JOTTINGS FROM THE TEILOS HERD



Teilo's Andreas BT027992D, Dam CH Airways Annabelle, Sire CH Theban Caredig, (Buckling)

My herd has to really evolve around my day job, which is for Powys County Council. In the Spring, (That's after the 1st kids arrive) it all gets rather busy, and then it's back to early mornings, not the best but the thought of a nice full udder of milk soon springs me up out of bed, well their's hoping!! The first thing I do when I get up is feed the new kids which are kept at home in the stable, then it's jump in the car up to the main herd for feeding, milking and making sure they have what they need to last them the day till I get home from work in the afternoon. I do go home at lunch time to feed the kids until they are about 2-3 weeks old, then I turn night into day for the kids, where they get three feeds from tea time through to bed time & the morning before I go to work. They get four feeds a day till they are 6-8 weeks,

depending on how they are coming along, then they drop to three feeds and the volume of milk is upped. Once the kids drop to three feeds a day, they get moved up to live with the main herd, which helps them learn the skills of life mixing with the herd.

I milk by hand and by machine, the reason for this is mainly to cut down the time it takes me in the mornings, as when the goats are on the machine, I can run round doing other jobs, which saves time. The other reason is when I want to go away the person that is left in charge of the herd can milk them by machine, which makes it easier for them. I usually milk by machine in the mornings and by hand in the evening which works out well.

JOTTINGS FROM THE TEILOS HERD

In the spring and summer depending on the weather and time of year the goats go out in the evenings to graze for a few hours. My herd to be honest has never really performed milk wise if they are just put out to graze all day the milk seems to drop off, but saying that some people say it works for them so each to their own really. I find that the goats never really graze from lunch time through to late afternoon, due to it being too hot in the summer, my lot seem to be happier in their pens.

They are however fed good hay. I think to be honest, that is of the most important part of their diet and is what keeps them performing. As it keeps the rumen healthy and working, the animal will eat more, therefore produce more for our milking buckets, well we hope so!! Those of you that know me, will know I am very fussy about hay and travel miles for it, where ever I can find it!!



Trailer of clover hay

I enjoy the shows very much, meeting up with others at the shows and seeing what else is out in the show ring each year. When I first starting around the show circuit I found the kitchen tent at the

shows in the evenings good fun and a place to pick up tips on goats and how best to keep them, but sadly the numbers have been in decline around the shows in my area over the past few years. This means less and less people. I hope as interest is coming back in “the good life” approach to life, people may be inclined to take the hobby up. I know when I’m around the shows I always try to encourage children to feed the kids, that bit of enjoyment may well be the start of a new goat keeper in years to come. I know one child who turns up at a few shows I go to and feeds my kids. Last year his parents asked if I have a couple of spare kids to let them know in the spring. I know at times we as exhibitors think the shows go ahead for the goats. Of course they do in our little worlds, but the shows really wouldn’t go ahead with out the paying public. Let’s get out there and show the world the real worth of goats in today’s world.

Hopes for the Teilos’ herd over the next twelve months are to get out to some shows, enjoy the time with fellow goat keepers and see what goats turn up out of trailers and into the show ring. Of course I’m sure we are all praying for a lovely milker to come through, well that’s out of our hands, but that’s what keeps us going!! In the year of the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, let us continue to make an extra effort to promote goatkeeping through the coming year.

Shane Jones

BGS CALENDAR 2013

Jane Wilson BGS Secretary
 British Goat Society
 Gibshiel, Tarncliffe, Hexham
 Northumberland NE48 1RR
Tel: 01434 240 866

2013 BGS Calendar

is now hot off the press for sale in time for Christmas and the New Year.

The calendar is totally self funding, all sales are profit for the BGS. Last year sales made over £500 for the BGS. Please support this publicity project by purchasing a copy, be it for yourself or a Christmas present for a goaty friend.

The calendar is A3 size, showing a goat subject on half the calendar, with a date and notes area on the other half.

The calendar's are £6.00 each including P&P.

Please order the calendar from the BGS office and make cheques payable to the BGS . Numbers are limited so please order sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

Thanks for your support in advance,

Shane (BGS Publicity officer)



Above: Res BIS Charnocks Bronelka & BIS Wadehouse Lilly at Halifax

Below: BS Milking Class with Judge Mr David Brace at Halifax (Photos: Rachel Norman)



Shows



Above: BIS line up at Glendale: Montrue Maziwanto, Montrue Mtomaziwa, Aphrodite Andalucia & Lyncol Babu (Photo: Rachel Norman)

Below: Cornwall Goatkeepers Open Day at Boscadjack Farm. Article over the page Photo: Sue Smith & Albert Reynolds)



Carrick Herd Diary

Above: Kirriereoch, home to Lynda & Geoff Shaw and the Carrick herd

Below: Carrick Cecily, Carrick Camille and Carrick Connie



Cornwall Goatkeepers Open Day

Cornwall Goatkeepers held their Open Day at Boscadjack Green, home to the Boscadjack Herd, Albert Reynolds, Sue Smith and numerous Goats in varieties and sizes. The weather on the 30th Sept was cold but dry, and the ground firm, important when you consider that our fields are water meadows!

Much pre-day work had been carried out, beginning in Feb and continuing with the getting of local papers, feed stores and vets to promote the day, and finishing after the first visitors had arrived!

We were there with posters and information sheets poised, when they arrived, but everyone pitched in and soon we were done! Each visitor was handed a sheet saying what could be seen and where, from the all important Loo, through the back garden (chickens ducks, turkeys) to the front yard and house with tea & coffee, goat houses, milking area and Pygmy Goats, out of the gate and across the lane to the fields. The main field was where it was at, with the Dairy girls, behind an 'off' line, so visitors could step over and interact, the kid house is also here, as are the trio of Boer goats and a trio of Bagots. The Bagots have a ramp around their house and watched people from the roof! This is often the first thing people see when they visit us...2 Bagot girls lying on the roof of their house! They did come down to 'talk', and Elvis certainly seemed to impress with his manly smell!

In this field we had the local Spinners, hand spinning whatever hair they could get, we tried combing one of the Bagots, but she felt that as she was growing her hair, she was not parting with any more than two long white hairs! so...the dogs were combed and I now have a long spun 'necklace' of Merlin's and Jade's hair!!!!The BBQ proved a success with goat burgers going like hot cakes, followed closely by our sausages and roast pork. The fields either side held either pigs or Zwartbles or Jacob sheep The Boy's paddock is to one side of our house and was accessible and if anyone wanted to go in with them, there was a notice regarding their smell and how it might go home with them!

We were also lucky in that we had two 'holiday goats' in for the holiday accommodation to be seen, as we will always take in sold goats when owners are away. During the day we had milking demonstrations, with Ellie the AN patiently allowing an endless stream of visitors have a go at milking her, including children. Later one of the kids volunteered to have her feet trimmed, and allowed some of the less experienced keepers try too.

Visitors left at about five, and the CGA Committee had a well earned Cuppa. The Open Day was the Brain Child of the CGA Committee, and without their help, it would not have worked ...team work!!

Will we do it again, you bet. It was hard work, but all visitors have been contacted for feedback to help us improve, so here goes.

Sue Smith, Albert Reynolds & members of the CGA

My name is Lynda Shaw and I live with my husband, Geoff, on a small-holding in the Galloway hills in South West Scotland, where Geoff works for the Forestry Commission and where we keep the Carrick herd of British Alpine and BA-types, for milk, for breeding and for showing. The milk is essential for us, as we are very remote, seventeen miles from the nearest shops and there are times most winters when we are snowed in. We also run a breeding flock of 50 Blackface ewes that we cross with a Texel tup, and once again the goats milk is very valuable for rearing any orphan lambs that we have. There's also a border collie, Nell, whose abiding passions are hunting rats and being fussed over, but whose sheep-herding skills leave a lot to be desired. Half a dozen chickens complete the livestock, except for my dutch rabbit Missy (black and white, of course) who lives in the house and rules the roost.

I enjoy showing and meeting fellow goatkeepers, and in most years travel to around 10 recognised Shows, but this year Geoff was in hospital in Glasgow for three months and I lived there too, as we have three daughters who live there. Geoff had three metal plates inserted in his neck and recovery is ongoing. Luckily, our younger son, Chris, looked after the farm and is still living here. I was only able to get to one show – my nearest one in Ayr in July, but the effort and organisation involved was rewarded with our milker *Carrick Calliope* getting a Q*.

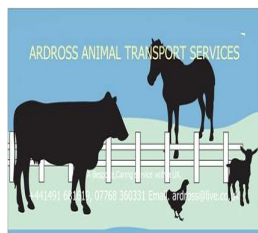
1st September: We awake to quite a sharp frost and I hurry down to the polytunnel

and greenhouse to check the runner beans, courgettes and tomatoes. The growing season here is too short so vulnerable vegetables are grown under cover – luckily everything is OK. Chris gets up and offers to do the morning milking, because I have orf on the middle finger of my left hand, making milking both painful and slow. I was clipping our sheep a couple of weeks ago (very late, I know – due to the hospital stay) and must have nicked myself with the hand shears and then it became infected when we found a couple of the lambs had orf and I dosed them with ovaloids – my own fault.

Chris goes to read the rain gauge for August – 300mm – charming for summer. Any monthly total that stays in double figures is a really dry one for us – the annual rainfall is usually in the region of 2200mm. We do the feeding between us and then cut some logs. Next up we check the male kid *Caesar*'s feet and put in his ear tags. After lunch Christine Watt (Benarty herd) and her son Billy come to borrow *Caesar* (and to praise him) and I was able to tell them that he mated his first goat last night, as my AOV *Carrick Aoife* stood well and he served her twice. She was one of the three goats that I missed getting in-kid last year, as they refused to come back in season after September. Christine phones later, to say they have arrived back safely. I spend most of the evening on the phone, trying to gauge how many people are coming to the Ayrshire Goat Club AGM tomorrow. In other words, how much baking do I need to do?

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Carrick Herd Diary

2nd September: We are woken up - in the middle of the night it seems - by *Calliope* yelling the place down. Her plaintive cries are reciprocated across the yard by buckling *Carrick Merlyn*, who is bereft because his friend the male kid has moved to Fife. *Calliope* only kidded at the end of May and I am milk recording her, so I'm afraid there is no fun for her this year (not to mention that *Merlyn* is her son!). She is very determined and refuses to jump up onto the milking table, straining every muscle to get to the door instead. I persuade Geoff to come with me to the AGM, for a change of scenery at least, and the hall has easy access for him. We leave laden down with sandwiches, quiche and Key Lime Pie. It takes us about an hour to get there and there is an excellent turn-out. Everyone else has brought goodies too, and we enjoy a delicious lunch before getting down to business. There are a few new faces elected to the committee, including Beth Fairley and her sister Rachel, who have travelled down from Stirlingshire; I am promoted from Vice-chair to Chair. There is a large amount of business to deal with, and the meeting lasts for about two hours. When we get back, *Calliope* is still pleading her case.

3rd September: Off to see the Doc about my finger and she confirms it is orf, but there are no suitable anti-virals. While in town, I meet up with my friend Lynda, who gives me a homeopathic nosode for orf to try and I decide I may as well take some of the ovaloids as well. Then on to Dumfries, for Children's Panel Training. The Children's Panel is a lay justice sys-

tem In Scotland, which looks after the welfare of children who have offended or who are in need of care and protection (often both). Each case is considered by a Panel of three members; it is a voluntary position and comes with an initial intensive training course that is updated on relevant issues every month. I have been doing it for six years. When I get back home, Chris has done the milking and feeding, taken care of Geoff, and made a tasty lasagne.

4th September: After dropping Geoff at physio, I take the car into the garage, where they prescribe new discs and pads all round, plus two new rings for the ABS system. Sounds expensive! The rain is coming down in torrents when we get back, so the goats have to stay in again. Last year's hay is getting low, so I phone my usual supplier to see what the situation is. He says he managed to make some over four dry days about a fortnight ago - it is nice and green, but a bit dusty, so he suggests I collect a few bales to see what the goats think. In the evening I read the papers for a Children's Panel case on Thursday. Our friend Andy arrives from Spain - he lives over there, but comes over to the UK about twice a year and usually comes up to visit and help out with any outstanding jobs.

5th September: Speech Therapy today - another round trip of 34 miles like yesterday; its no wonder the car's worn out! Another case to be read when I get back. The weather is beautiful, so while Geoff is resting, Chris, Andy and I (and Nell, I

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suppose) run down and capture a ewe who avoided being gathered at the clipping, and I just clip her there in the field - one advantage of using hand-shears! Another is that there is more wool left on the sheep, which is just as well when they're clipped late.

6th September: Chris does the milking again as my finger, which had greatly improved, has started swelling again. I take two more ovaloids. Head off for Stranraer, to my Children's Panel -two hearings, both non-contentious cases, both with significant improvements. I call at the Feed Store on the way back to get some of their own goat mixture. They have mixed it up specially for me, ever since I presented them with a recipe and asked if they could make it. They could, its much cheaper than branded mixtures, and the goats do well on it. I leave the car at the garage in Newton Stewart and Andy comes in and picks up me and the feed.

7th September: Rain again! Finish packing the wool, then load it into the truck and Chris and I run it up to the Wool Marketing Board depot at Irvine. Its 40 miles and they will come and collect, but they charge £9 for each of our three sacks. We make the journey more worthwhile by filling up with small bales of barley straw on the way back through Ayr. I pick loads of runner and some broad beans, and spend most of the evening blanching them.

8th September: Torrential rain. No chance of doing anything outdoors so I make courgette soup, and watch a DVD

"the Help" with my friend Lynda.

9th September: A much better day. One of the rangers that Geoff works with arrives with his terrier, as we have a bit of a rat problem. We want a clear-out before filling the shed with hay again, so we move the remaining bales and lift the boards that they have been sitting on. Disappointingly, this operation reveals only a couple of rats, which are swiftly dispatched by Nell, who takes her rat-catching very seriously. As we lift the last board, around 20 rats scatter all ways; Nell and the terrier do their best, while Chris (wearing thick gloves) catches rats and knocks them back down to the dogs, sometimes hitting them with a shovel (the rats, not the dogs!). I manage to hit two, and miss twice as many! Later on, a friend, Norman, comes to try to fix our wee Nuffield tractor, which has been marooned since May down in the bottom meadows, where it came to an unexpected stop while Chris and Andy were spreading muck. Norman takes the tractor's battery away to charge it up.

10th September: Andy takes Geoff and I into town, Geoff to physio, me to the garage to collect the car. Norman comes back with the battery, but no joy with the tractor.

11th September: Our Wedding Anniversary, and its another hospital appointment, this time in Glasgow. Afterwards, we go round to our daughter's for a lovely lunch. At home, Andy gives up with waiting for the tractor and muck-spreader, and mucks out the big billy pen on to the muck heap, which now resem-

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bles a mountain – obviously, a different solution will be needed for the rest of the goat pens. I phone Douglas, our nearest neighbour (just three miles away) and in no time at all, he turns up in the yard with his (much bigger) tractor. He gets ours' going with a tow, and there's a lot of grey, gunge coming out of the overflow pipe, looking suspiciously like oil and water. Douglas' monster machine makes light of bringing tractor and spreader up out of the meadows, and he departs, saying if we fill the spreader he'll come back and spread it.

14th September: A real nip in the air, which usually stirs up the goats, so no surprise when Bonny announces she's on heat. She is a BA/BT cross by *Guilden Blue*, so to get her back to BA as soon as possible I really need a 2nd-generation BA male. My male *Merlyn* will throw BA but is only herd book himself. Originally, my intention had been to use *Lade-side Carrick* on *Bonny*, and I'd planned to leave her with Agnes after the Aberdeen and Angus Show at Forfar in August. Of course, that was one of the shows that I didn't get to. I try phoning Richard Wood, to see if I might come and use *Brynglas Merlot*, but can't make contact.

Chris pressure-washes the big billy pen, and Andy does some pointing on the brickwork. Chris persuades me to go with him to get logs while the weather stays dry. He can fetch them himself, but it's much quicker with two, as he can carry them off the clear-fell and into the truck while I'm cutting.

16th September: *Charisma* on heat. Managed to reach Richard and he offers to meet me in Carlisle with a male kid by *Merlot* that I can borrow. Lynda comes with me and we meet Richard at the livestock market in Carlisle. The kid looks very smart; called *Silverline Blackprince* (I just call him Eddie), his dam is *Hayley Strinopeal*, who Richard still has. Back home, Eddie shows no interest in *Charisma*.

17th September: Still no interest from Eddie – he sniffs about in a desultory way, and jumps up on *Charisma* a few times in a half-hearted manner. The swelling is bigger so I give him antibiotic and take her across to *Merlyn*. Pick another impressive load of beans, and get them prepared and blanched. Andy makes a start on a fence to divide the small gathering enclosure outside the sheep pens – it will make it much easier to pen the sheep. He gets the posts in and the bottom wire on before the rain starts.

18th September: More rain! Andy's birthday, so I make a cheesecake for dinner.

19th September: Absolutely pouring again this morning, so we are inundated by fishermen from first thing. The Minnoch Water, close by our house, is a popular salmon river and we sell day fishing permits for the Forestry Commission. There's a strict limit of six rods, so when there's a big water and the fish are running upstream, it's a case of first come, first served. When I take Geoff in for his Speech Therapy, we

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have to don waterproofs to stay dry between the car park and the health centre. Andy and Chris doggedly finish the fence and Andy makes a good job of a wooden gate to close off the far end.

20th September: Incredibly, there is more rain and the meadows are flooded. A couple come to look at the goats, as they want to start keeping BA's. They have had goats before, so know what they are doing. We have a delivery of square posts and sarking boards for the new raised beds for strawberries.

21st September: There's no sign of *Aoife* returning, so it seems that Caesar has settled her. I help Andy with the mucking-out until Chris comes and takes over and I start digging the potatoes. In the middle of August they developed blight, so I cut the shaws down to the ground. I had been hoping for a dry spell to lift them, but not actually raining will have to do – the potatoes are coming up covered in black mud.

The goats get to go out, for a change. Our grazing is mostly unimproved acid grassland, with rushes in the wetter areas. We just put the goats outside the farm gate and they can graze wherever they want – into town, even, or further, if they so choose, but in fact they never go far and are always waiting at the gate at feeding time.


22nd September: Geoff has his first day out without me hovering over him: a friend takes him to a meeting, where he will be able to catch up with all his "birdy" friends. I ask Tom to keep a

close eye on him, because he's still pretty unstable, even with his walking aids. I dig more potatoes, clearing the ground as I'm going. Douglas comes back to spread some muck, then leaves us his tractor to finish the job. I give him a lift home.

23rd September: An insane day; beautifully sunny and breezy, and I'm lifting potatoes and digging things over like a rotovator. Chris and Andy are mucking out the rest of the goat shed, the goatling shed and the kids' pen. Chris delights in spreading it all with a tractor that keeps working! He brings up some well-rotted stuff to spread over my freshly dug garden and we cover it with an old carpet. All the potatoes are in, but it's a very poor crop. I am exhausted.

27th September: After 3 days of lashing rain, today dawns a bit brighter. Chris and Andy finish mucking out the other billy pens and Chris spreads it all. I take Geoff in for his physio and then when we get back we go to fetch the sheep down from where they've been grazing, a mile up the road. We put them in the bottom meadows. The livestock market has been phoning me asking if I'm bringing lambs in next week – I tell them yes.


29th September: Another nice day, very windy and the wind turbine is whizzing round. We don't have mains electricity and existed for years with a diesel generator, but about three years ago we had the turbine installed. It means we now have power 24/7 (a real novelty), plus the turbine saves us quite a bit of money on diesel. I do about six loads of washing in my single tub machine, then put it in the





FRENCHALL
GOATS


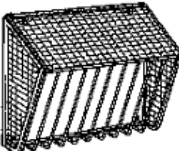
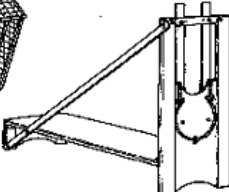
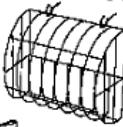

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OFFICIALLY RECORDED YIELDS

Lactation Certificates have been received for the following milkers this year. They are published here unverified and will be published in Herd Book 138 after verification.

These are 365 days (or less) lactations unless otherwise stated

Name	Yield	Ave Bfat&	Ave Pro%
Moonlin Diana	6528	4.09	2.76 Extended 1127 days
Rhenelfa Gail *3BrCh	2857	3.47	2.58
Kattern Georgie Q*BrCh	2182	3.69	2.82
Cheswell Octakimba *4BrCh	2064	3.56	2.77
Cheswell Dorcas *5	1961	3.34	3.26
Poplartime Elena	1609	3.92	3.32
Jemaly Vetch *3	1516	5.06	4.22
Jemaly Myrtle *2	1364	3.90	3.9
Rhenelfa Honor	1282	3.96	3.10
Crayshill Rosebay	1246	3.43	2.78
Wytse Angela	1138	5.24	3.45
Everest Vectra	1102	3.67	2.86

Change to butterfat figure

R152 Caulan Mystique *2	1525	3.31	2.68
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spin dryer, and in an hour and a half its all blowing on the clothes line. My disenchantment with technology extends to appliances and I believe it would take an automatic all day to do that much washing - by which time the wind would be replaced by rain. We get the sheep back in and tag the lambs; there are 54 really good ones and only 3 not big enough to go. Not enough time to sort through the ewes, as it is our great-grandson's 3rd birthday, and Chris and I go up to Glasgow for a birthday tea – Geoff can't face the 130-mile round trip, so stays to keep an eye on things at home.

30th September: The river is quite low when we came in last night, but torrential rain starts in the early hours. At first light Chris is down in the meadows, in waders, rescuing sheep that are cut off by the flood. How lucky it was that we hadn't separated the ewes off, because

they know the safer parts of the field. Chris puts them all on a small hill where they are standing shoulder to shoulder, but are safe. Douglas comes to collect his tractor and Norman comes back to look at ours'. He decides it might be the head gasket, but could equally be condensation, so he is going to order up a new oil filter. When the rain stops Chris and Andy put in the posts and screw the boards onto the new strawberry bed. Domesticity overcomes me and I do lots of Hoovering, and bake bread, biscuits and chocolate chip muffins.

Post script

The rain gauge reading for September was 320mm.

Eddie mated Cecilia, but she hasn't gone her 3 weeks yet.

Lynda Shaw

SHOW UPDATES

August Booklet

Scottish Goatkeepers' Federation Spring Show Males

BUCKLING AV (5/4) 1st Webster & Smith's Theban Conrad, 2nd Webster & Smith's

Guilden Bluescotty, 3rd Mason's Hemdun Horatio

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY AWARDS

South Of England 7 June 2012

BCC's BG, BS, BT T (n/f) GG (n/a)

Grampian Goat Club Females

BCC's T (n/a)

Honley 9th June

BCC BT Philday Swift (f) Res (n/a)

Ayrshire Goat Club Females 7th July

CM (n/a)

Classified Adverts

For Sale

Zaney Willow BA018272D
 Born 26th March 2010
 Sire: † Wedgewood Darwin
 Dam: Domino Delia
 CAE tested
 Contact: Mrs L Cole
 Tel: 01997 466 234

For Sale

The Jacmar Herd Of Dairy Goats
 Has For Sale

Jacmar Grandthea
 Born 03.03.2010 Kided.08.03.2012
 Sire:
 §§ 226/166† Ashdene Czar BT027709D
 Dam:
 RM 200 Jacmar Guinevieve
 BT027623D *14

(Milk recorded,
 Currently 1070 in 182 days)
 CAE Whole herd tested Negative
 Scrapie Monitored

Contact: Jean Cunningham
 Tel: 01493 401 141
 Mobile: 07523 382 823

Email: jacreedham@talktalk.net

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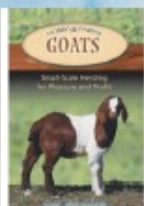


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