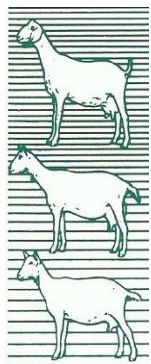


# BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



April 2013  
Monthly Journal  
Volume 106

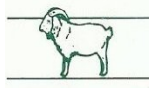
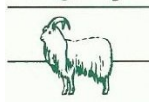
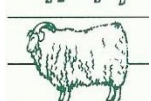
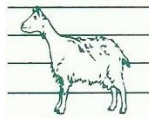
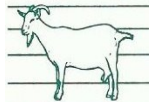
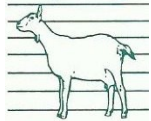
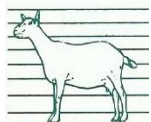
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## BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY

*Registered Charity No: 210646*

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Tel/Fax 01434 240 866

Email: [secretary@allgoats.com](mailto:secretary@allgoats.com) Website: [www.allgoats.com](http://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

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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.

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**Editor:** Jane Wilson, Gibshiel, Tarsset, Hexham Northumberland NE48 1RR

Tel/Fax: 01434 240 866

Email: [secretary@allgoats.com](mailto:secretary@allgoats.com)

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**President**

Mr Richard Wood  
2 Dunsley Gardens, Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 7LL  
Tel: 01661 823 733 Email: rmwood@tiscali.co.uk

**Chair**

Mrs Agnes Aitken  
Hillberry, Dunnottar, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Scotland AB39 3XB  
Tel: 01569 766 775 Email: agnes.aitken@virgin.net

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

**Vice Chair & Herd Book Coordinator:** Margaret Hardman  
17 Greenfield Road, Sheffield, Yorkshire S8 7RQ  
Tel: 01142 740 192

**Vice Chair & Hon. Solicitor:** Mr Nick Parr  
118 Frog Grove Lane, Woodstreet, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HB  
Tel: 01483 825 836 Email: Nick\_Parr@hotmail.co.uk

**Secretary:** Jane Wilson  
Gibshiel, Tarset, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1RR  
Tel/Fax: 01434 240 866 Email: secretary@allgoats.com

**Overseas Representative:** Mrs Christine Ball  
Orchard Cottage, Befcote Lane, Gnosall, Staffs ST20 0EB  
Tel: 01785 824 897 Email: christineball@goatgenetics.com

**Web Manager: To be appointed**

**Publications & Public Relations Officer:** Ros Earthy  
The Old Post Office, Hayton, Aspatria, Cumbria CA7 2PD  
Tel: 01697 323 755 Email: biblinros@yahoo.co.uk

**Publicity Coordinator:** Shane Jones  
4 Bank Square, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BB  
Tel: 01982 552 062 Email: shane.jones@powys.gov.uk

**Show Coordinator:** Mr Colin Newton  
Page Bank Lodge, Whitworth Lane, Page Bank, Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 7RD  
Tel: 01388 819 665 Email: pagebank-lodge@tiscali.co.uk

**Commercial Liaison Officer:** Mr Richard Pemble  
14 Wyecliffe Gardens, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3HN  
Tel: 01737 646 280 Email: richardpemble@hotmail.com

**Milk Recording Secretary & Representative for Northern Ireland:** Terry Hanna  
35 Mullaghdrin Road, Dromara, Dromore, Co. Down BT25 2AG  
Tel: 0289753 2685 Email: terry.hanna@dsl.pipex.com

**NON COMMITTEE OFFICER AND COORDINATOR**

**Year Book Coordinator:** Mr Michael Ackroyd  
118 Frog Grove Lane, Woodstreet, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HB  
Tel: 01483 825 836 Email: michael\_ad@live.com

**Government & Scientific Liaison Officer:** Mrs Ruth Goodwin  
Southside Cottage, Brook Hill, Albury, Nr. Guildford, Surrey GU5 9DJ  
Tel: 01483 202 159 Email: ruthgoodwin@onetel.com

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

**I**t has been a busy time since the last Journal was issued. The BGS has been the victim of several cheque fraud attempts during February and April. Fraudulent cheques, bearing the correct BGS account number, have been presented at various banks and locations across England, the amounts have totaled several thousand pounds. Where money was actually paid out of our account, the bank has reimbursed us so **we are not out of pocket**. The bank has passed details to their internal Fraud Squad and I have confirmation that they are to lodge complaint in an attempt to trace those responsible. A new bank account number has been obtained and a communication sent to the bank instructing closure of our 'old' account number and requesting the transfer of funds therein to the 'new' account number. This will ensure any future attempt to present a cheque bearing the 'old' account number is not honoured.

At the end of March the long awaited legacy cheque in favour of the BGS from the late Mr Hill was received at the office. The cheque was for the sum of £257,138.59 – Mr Hill's generosity is overwhelming. A meeting was held recently involving myself, Margaret Hardman, Nick Parr, Ian Pennicott (our financial adviser) and our trustees Richard Wood, David Brace and Brian Perry when it was agreed the entire amount be initially invested for a period of 6 months to allow time for the in-coming committee to decide how best to deal with the legacy.

Due to bad weather, the Milk Recording meeting which was planned for 23 March near Newcastle had to be called off – it is hoped it will be possible to re-schedule it to a suitable future date.

Members will by now have received the most recent Herd Book – this publication has been the subject of many, many hours of checking prior to going to print, however, if you spot any errors, please let the Herd Book Co-ordinator know so that corrections can be published in the next Herd Book.

With shows just round the corner again, I would take this opportunity of reminding exhibitors of the need to have kids registered and their registration numbers made known to show secretaries **before kids enter the show ring**. Good luck to all exhibitors – let's hope the weather is kinder this year than it was last.

Agnes Aitken  
Chair

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Reaseheath College, Cheshire  
Mr Unsworth, Dorset;  
Mr Costello, Hertfordshire;  
Mrs O'Connor, Rutland;  
Ms Frohlich, Devon;  
Mr & Mrs Bell, Co. Durham;  
Mrs Mackinnon., Isle of Skye;  
Gorgie City Farm, Edinburgh;

Ms Rogers, Hampshire;  
Mr Hoppe-Jaganak, Germany;  
Mrs & Mr Hodder, Wiltshire;  
Mrs McLlavey, Angus;  
Miss Gardiner & Mr Wright, Aberdeen-shire;  
Mr Burton, Co Mayo.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The registrations and transfers are beginning to come in, so your goats must be kidding. I hope kidding has been and will continue to be successful.

Please ensure your kids are correctly tagged before you complete their registration applications to prevent any hold up in the process. Do include service certificates if you did not own the sire of your kids. The online service certificate system is working well for those with internet access.

Registrations and transfers can be completed through Grassroots with payment by PayPal and as always paper applications for registrations and transfers are always welcome too.

Articles, photographs and snippets of information, for inclusion in the Monthly Journal are always most welcome. Please send in photographs of your goats. Kidding, playing, showing, milking, milking parlours, fibre, meat and pet goats are all subjects of interest and I am sure there are many others. Sending your photographs as an email attachment is brilliant but postal copy is also very welcome.

I am delighted to we have new advertisers to the Monthly Journal for the coming 11 issues and trust you will find them very helpful.

This is *Your* Monthly Journal so I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes  
Jane

## SHOW UPDATES

### 'TOGGENBURG BREED SHOW'

I am pleased to announce that there will be classes for Pure Toggenburgs, at this years breed show, on 29th June at Newark Showground.

All BGS Togg breeders and keepers are welcome, anyone requesting entry forms please telephone, 01609 882924 or 07778529922 (after 6pm), or text your name, address and postcode to me. Your support is most welcome.

Joan Bell.

### JUDGES

Balmoral	Date 15th-17th May	Judge Mrs M Hardman
Cleveland	Date 27th July	Judge Mr G Smith
Newbury	Date 22nd September	Judge Mr R Wood
Royal Berkshire	Date 21st Sept	Judge Mr G Smith
Sedgefield	Date 10th August	Judge Mr A Morrey

### RECOGNISED & DIPLOMA ONLY SHOWS

Show Name	Cup	Class'n	Dates	Judge	Entries	Secretary	Phone
NIGC Spring (m&f)	15	a	3/4th May	Mr S Jones	20th April	Mr T Hanna	02897532685
Hambleton (m&f)	7	a/w	9th June	Mr R Parkin	26th May	Mrs M Holmes	01609882911
Saanen (m&f)	26	a/b/w	29th June	Mr D Brace	11th June	Mrs. S. Wilman	01362684109
Pure Toggs Breed		a/w	29th June	Mr D Brace	30th June	Mrs J Bell	07778529922
Kent Dairy	28	a/c/w	13th July	Mrs V Hardy	15th June	Mrs. R. Fox	07976214903
Malton		Diploma	14th July	Mrs V Hardy	21st June	Mr A Stott	01653693382
NIGC Autumn (m&f)		a	2/3rd Aug	Mr R Pemble	26th July	Mr D Galbraith	02870836228
Thornton Le Dale		Diploma	7th Aug		tbc	Mr A Bowes	01751477783
Chertsey "A"	5		10th Aug	tbc	tbc	Mr M Ackroyd	01483825836
NIGC Male & YStck		a/w/m	10th Aug	Mr Ringland	20th July	Mr W Anderson	07731941213
Chertsey "B"			11th Aug	tbc	tbc	Mr M Ackroyd	01483825836
Frome	14	a/w	14th Sept	Mr N Parr	18th Aug	Mrs S C Head	01249716350
Alwalton Show		a/w	12th Oct	tbc	30th Sept	Mr C Nye	01353699413

### MRS WRIGHT

Mrs W. Wright (Doxford herd) died in February. Mr & Mrs Wright joined the BGS in 1972 & the prefix was granted in 1973. Mrs Wright accompanied her husband to meetings and shows and was always there to help show the Doxford goats. Mrs Wright was a member of local goatkeeping groups in the North East. Mr Wright is a life member and our thoughts go out to the family at this difficult time.

## 2012 Cornwall Male & Youngstock

**Mr R Pemble**

**19 August 2012**

**ADULT MALE AN (3/3)** 1st Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Kernowmoon, 2nd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Lunaecips, 3rd Ross's Wytsend Merlin

**ADULT MALE BA (2/2)** 1st Crowther's Carrick Rory, 2nd Ford's Coppershel Briar

**ADULT MALE S/BS (2/1)** 1st Calcraft & Day's Toddbrook Tantalus

**ADULT MALE T/BT (1/1)** 1st Hayden's Willowbank Quince

**ADULT MALE AOV (1/1)** 1st Ford's Boxo Xerxes

**BUCKLING AOV (4/4)** 1st Calcraft & Day's Toddbrook Tantalus, 2nd Ford's Boxo Xerxes, 3rd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Lunaecips

**MALE KID AN (5/4)** 1st Connor's Holdbrook Paniki, 2nd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Mrmanuka, 3rd Ross's Wytsend Fraser

**MALE KID AOV (4/4)** 1st Hearn's Gorsefield Cecil, 2nd Ford's Philday Desmond, 3rd Smith's Wheelgold Salvador

**FEMALE KID AN (4/4)** 1st Connor's Roundswell Diamante, 2nd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Rozel, 3rd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Marbledmoon

**FEMALE KID S/BS (3/3)** 1st Calcraft & Day's Leatland Ribbon, 2nd Calcraft & Day's Leatland Lace, 3rd Calcraft & Day's Leatland Diamond

**FEMALE KID T/BT (5/5)** 1st Hearn's Gorsefield Cylva, 2nd Vickery's Treleth Dahlie, 3rd Vickery's Treleth Dala

**FEMALE KID GG/BG (3/3)** 1st Smith's Wheelgold Noranka, 2nd Smith's Wheelgold Sahara, 3rd Jervis's Coppergon Rosie

**FEMALE KID AOV (4/4)** 1st Ford's Boxo Marigold, 2nd Hale's Landsmead Tigermoth, 3rd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Iris

**GOATLING AN (2/2)** 1st Connor's Roundswell Cinderella, 2nd Smith & Reynold's Boscadjack Magicstars

**GOATLING T/BT (3/3)** 1st Hearn's Gorsefield Magyk, 2nd Owen's Nightshade Lilac, 3rd Owen's Nightshade Lupin

**GOATLING GG/BG (1/1)** 1st Jervis's Coppergon Princess

**GOATLING AOV (2/2)** 1st Calcraft & Day's Leatland Sonya, 2nd Calcraft & Day's Leatland Serena

### **BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY AWARDS**

**Rosette BIS, CC, BCC BS** Toddbrook Tantalus, **ResBIS, CM** Boxo Xerxes

**BCC BA** Carrick Rory

**BEST BUCKLING** Toddbrook Tantalus

**BEST MALE KID** Holdbrook Paniki

**BGS DIPLOMA & BEST GOATLING** Leatland Sonya

**BEST FEMALE KID** Leatland Ribbon

### **JUDGES COMMENTS:**

Toddbrook Tantalus and Boxo Xerxes both extremely well grown bucklings with plenty of dairy quality and size. Leatland team were turned out well in immaculate condition and were a pleasure to handle.

Apologies for the late publication of these results.



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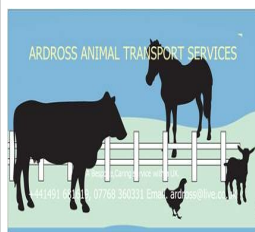
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## HERD DIARY

**1**st January: New Year's Day. We are invaded by my in-laws: Mother, Father, Sister and her Husband and our Nephew, so with us 4 (me, my husband Adrian and children Eleanor 17 and Nicholas 11) that's 9 for the evening meal tonight (we made it clear when we moved to Yew Tree Farm that we don't do lunch - too busy outside in the short number of hours of daylight!) That's OK - Adrian has just put up a tiled frieze behind the Aga in our newly completed kitchen. It's hand-painted and depicts our goats (BAs in the field and Bagots on the dry-stone wall!) with a background of Wasdale valley with Scafell in the distance. It cost an arm and a leg but is exquisite. So I admire it while I cook and think of the ideal world where our goats can go out on a dry day in a dry field - not be cooped up in the goat barn with the rain pouring down and the field forever water-logged.

**2nd January:** My sister is 50 today. Oh gosh! I was the youngest of 4 - 2 boys and then 2 girls - so she's the nearest in age to me. I'm hanging on to my 40s for only another few years! Adrian is 2 months younger than me and never fails to go on about "marrying an older woman" when I turn the next year. We got the goats out for a short time this morning but then the heavens opened and they shouted to go back in. At the moment they don't have the choice - they're either in or out - as when we gave them the choice of taking cover back in the barn they used to stand inside all day with only their heads sticking out. It was very frustrating on a nice

day. Odd really, because they seem so pleased to go out when they can. At least it gave our nephew a chance to see them running around before he leaves this afternoon. Went to see *The Hobbit* this evening with the children. Too much action and no story - can't imagine why they thought such a short book could make 3 films. It's a money-making racket I reckon. Everything is a trilogy these days.

**3rd January:** All visitors gone, and 4 days left before we're back to work/school as we're all off until the 7th. The goats desperately need mucking out, but it has been so wet, Adrian has not been able to spread the muck from our last mucking out on the fields - the quad bike just sinks into the ground - so we have nowhere to put a barn load of muck. We would need a completely dry day anyway, so the goats could be out in the field all day, and I can't think when we last had one of those! We only have a few bales of straw left, so will have to locate some small square bales within the next few days.

**4th January:** We are still eating left-overs from New Year (and Christmas, come to think of it). Adrian says he can't remember having half the things the first time round. They must always have been left-overs! Gave the goats some greens which were a bit passed it for human consumption and they enjoyed that. They appreciate a bit of variety in their diet through the winter and I am seldom more imaginative than providing endless carrots. If the Second World War propaganda were true, they would have excellent eye-sight,

but in fact their night vision is appalling. If I ever leave them out till after dark, the whole herd makes a great fuss about fumbling indoors, negotiating the steps up from the field etc. It's hilarious to watch. I suppose they don't have many night predators in the wild.

5th January: Our Bagot Goats made a bid for freedom today as John, our farm help, had left some walling unfinished between us and another farmer's land. They scrambled nonchalantly through the microscopically-sized hole but soon came home, as the pickings are richer. We have about 90 acres, 30 of which are mixed woodland, which is a very comfortable environment for them. It does mean many of our trees lose their bark, but they are great at keeping down the holly and other undergrowth which was beginning to overrun the ground level of the wooded area, so much so that one could hardly walk there any more.

6th January: Adrian belly-clipped 8 Herdwick Shearlings today and we drive them to the small private slaughter house about an hour's drive from here. We are very lucky to have such a service not too far away. No number is too small for them and we have often taken only 2 or 3, although the cost of diesel these days makes a bigger number more economic. They are put on "death row" as we fondly call it, overnight, and slaughtered on the Monday morning. Then the carcasses are hung for 5 days. Echo, our oldest goat now, is looking a bit sorry for herself and is off her food. Adrian trimmed her hooves, which have grown incredibly

quickly as is often the case with the older ladies, and she seems more comfortable now, although she hated the actual trimming of course - all our goats make a fuss when it comes to hoof trimming.

7th January: Back to work and school today. I have an Inset Day with special training on teaching partially-sighted children - there are 2 in school at present. We got to wear a pair of glasses which mimicked what these children could (or couldn't) see. Fascinating! It makes you realise what they are up against in a "normal" school environment. I will be better equipped to cater for their needs now. I only attend the morning session and get out of the afternoon department meetings as I have to take Nicholas back to The Chorister School, Durham, where he is a full-boarder (as all Choristers must be.) Luckily, he is really happy there, although he never likes going back at first. He misses the goat routine and is worried about Echo dying of old age while he is away from home. Quite a wild night driving back, but maybe I shouldn't have chosen to drive back over Alston - a very mountainous route! Adrian took Eleanor back to St Bees School this evening where she is a weekly boarder (it being too complicated to be a day pupil where we live.) I am a teacher there as well, but, being a Music Teacher, my timetable does not fit the standard school day. She has learner plates and drove there while he asked her Biology questions in prepara-

## HERD DIARY

tion for her exam. Not entirely safe I wonder?!

8th January: My first proper day at school and the first lesson was a double A Level Music lesson with my own daughter! Goat routine was rushed in the morning so took longer over it this evening, giving myself time to actually enjoy their company, which is difficult in the early morning before a school day! Our hay is of mixed quality but they seem to be eating it and are always asking for more. I have sourced some large square bales of straw but no small ones yet, which would be a lot easier to manage on this small farm. Will enquire further. The house was quiet tonight with no children but we're used to it. Just Adrian and me now for a bit. We forgot it was the first day back at work and opened a bottle of wine and chilled out a bit. Then Adrian did some decorating - an endless task at the moment since all our building works.

9th January: Decided to put Aluminium, our BA/BT cross, on to a diet. She is getting rotund, like her BT mother, Echo, used to at a similar age. She is almost as wide as she is long! First of all I thought she might have cloudburst, but I think it is just over-eating. I suppose the judges would say she has "good condition" but I don't like a fat goat whatever the fashion in the ring. Some of the goats with "good condition" which I have seen near the top of the IP over the years just seem to me to be running to flab, but then, I'm not the expert! I've stopped feeding the goats Alfa A rou-

tinely at the moment because they were always wasting it and it is quite expensive. I don't think they really like it. When I was at the Ayr County Show last year (I go when I can as the Ayrshire Goat Club was my first club and taught me how to start with goats) Beth Fairley told me her goats preferred the minty Alfa A that is available, so I tried that, but it was still rejected! Eleanor's exams start tomorrow so she is panicking (but in a very restrained way as is her wont - she is never demonstrative at school, only at home!). Nicholas 'phoned last night and has settled in. He has been made a "cross boy"! Not a boy with anger management problems, but a leader on his side of the choir (he now wears a ribbon with a Durham cross on it - hence the term). Quite an honour for a boy not yet in his final year.

10th January: Eleanor was not impressed as she had her first exam this morning and there was a fire alarm practice at 6am on the boarding house. She is not a morning person and the loss of an extra hour in bed really affected her. I wish they could have chosen a better morning. The goats weren't particularly hungry this morning - they don't like the early mornings any more than I do - and then complained this evening that they had been left half-starved all day! I have to take the buckets in, even if they don't finish as they would completely trash them otherwise. Echo likes to wear hers on her head as a hat; it always tickles the children, especially when she bleats inside it and it echoes, thus living up to her name! I think Siwmae was in season this morn-

ing. It's a bit late but she's running through. Anyway, by this evening she had forgotten all about it, so it was never a very strong urge - just a flapping tail and a little more talkative, not yelling the barn down. I only have 2 hens and a cockerel at the moment as the large vixen which has been stalking our land got the rest before Christmas. No eggs from either of the hens so I'm having to buy them - can't think when I last had them on my shopping list. I must look in to getting some more. Another thing for the farm "to do" list.

11th January: Our current Director of Music is retiring and his position was advertised at the end of last week. I applied and was short-listed. The other candidates came to school today for their interviews and now I just have to wait and see. One of the applicants was young enough to be my son! Surely too young for a Director of Music, but who knows? I gave Echo and Tasha some left-over leaks this morning. Regretted it this evening. The barn was full of noxious gas! I think I might have sourced some small square bales of hay - just have to see what they will charge but it looked good quality. They would deliver too, so Adrian thinks we could stretch to £4 a bale but no more. I hope that's realistic. I'm sure horsey people pay a lot more, but we can't be in that league. Eleanor has gone to the cinema with friends to see *Les Misérables*. She needs picking up at some ungodly hour tonight. I can't wait until she passes her test! We often open a bottle of wine or a beer or two on a Friday evening, but a late drive always de-

nies that to one of us, so for solidarity neither of us indulged. I hope she appreciates the sacrifice. Agnes Aitken emailed today to check up on me! Had I remembered I'd undertaken to write the January diary? Adrian was able to reassure her I was reading it to him every night whether he liked it or not! I found a complete, but aborted, Bagot Goat foetus lying in the field today. It must have been dropped very recently but there were no Bagots in sight. What a shame. Adrian reckoned it was about 3-4 weeks from birth. It was almost full size, but had no fur at all, just like a slab of meat, but definitely Bagot as the black/white coloration was already there. The tiny hooves were like little teeth. Impossible to tell if male or female. I hope we didn't lose a nicely-marked girl. Anyway, no sign of a distressed mother, so she must have just dropped it and walked away. Adrian, in his continuing character as a mad scientist, collected it, preserved it in formaldehyde and has sent it into the school biology department.

12th January: Today we drove back to the small, private slaughter house/butchers and collected our lamb and mutton, all nicely jointed and packed in bags of half a sheep - 16 in total. Adrian spent the rest of the day dicing the less good cuts and packing the joints into bags labelled leg, shoulder, haunch etc. to make it easy to identify in the freezer. On Monday morning we'll take the orders we already have to our customers and make a tidy profit. Not enough to cover the cost of running the farm

though; no-where near. That needs us both to work full-time, but it was a life-style decision and neither of us have any regrets. One day it might become too much, but at the moment it is a wonderful life, although we don't always say that when the rain is coming at us horizontally and the sheep simply must be got in and dosed or something. The goats are different. They are part of our make-up now and we will always have goats, even if we go down to only two in our nineties! There is a big distinction in our minds. The goats are our pets and our companions: part of the family and the home. The sheep are our livestock: part of the farm. We can look after them and enjoy them but at the end of the day we can eat them, whereas we have never been able to fatten up unwanted male kids for meat to put in the freezer. Possibly for someone else to fatten up and sell but not for our own use. Maybe we will become less sentimental one of these days, but I doubt it!

13th January: It snowed today - enough to lie. Quite unusual for the warm west coast. Anything is an improvement on the endless rain. We got the hogs in today in order to fluke them. The occurrence of fluke in Cumbria has been very high this year, following on from a bad year last year, and vets have been recommending regular dosing. One was a bit weak on its pins so I picked it up to take it up the hill, but immediately regretted it. It's fleece was saturated with thawed snow which had been falling on the animal all day. I became instantly as wet as it, only without the lanolin to

provide a repellent (I only had a fleece on, not a waterproof). That will learn me! The goats were snug enough in their barn, although their heads are nearly touching the rafters because we so desperately need to muck out. I met someone on Friday who might be able to source some small square bales of straw, so that is a step in the right direction at least.

14th January: The snow had all but disappeared this morning. Driving to work was not the problem that had been forecast. I took half a Herdwick shearling, jointed and bagged and some leg joints and chops into school today for my colleagues who are regular customers of ours. The cleaners are very good about me filling the fridge with bags of meat all day (it is meant for use by the music staff, including all the peripatetic instrumental teachers who come in for odd days and teach over the lunch hour.) I only sabotage the fridge once every six months! Music Scholarship auditions all morning at school. No-one startling but two boys worth considering for exhibitions (ie. nothing off the fees but free music lessons.) Anyway, sitting through lots of mini recitals is always a nice change from the routine of teaching. I got a definite offer of 30 square bales of straw at £3.50 each. I am very happy with that. Just trying to confirm whether that includes delivery as was implied. I hope so for convenience sake. I went to the feed merchant this afternoon in a spare lesson I had because the seniors are doing exams at the moment. Picked up a car load of sheep rolls for the ewes and

some more purple hoof spray. Adrian finds it amusing that they feel obliged to put violet colouring into the anti-bacterial hoof spray so that it looks like the old iodine one, even though they don't make it with iodine anymore. If it isn't purple it won't work, or so the logic goes! We don't have a hoof problem in either the goats or sheep at the moment - just a precautionary buy for the veterinary cupboard, beside all the homeopathic remedies. These were recommended as essentials for the goat health cupboard by Maureen Cain of the Burnhead goat herd when she tutored me in goat-keeping.

15th January: Adrian got me some more bales of hay up from the forage barn today and the goats are tucking in to the new stuff. The hay we bought in this year was of variable quality (making me think it was not all from this year's cut). Some bales were really quite disappointing, but the goats seemed to be eating it. Anyway, we're onto a good batch of bales at the moment. After school I took Eleanor and a friend off the boarding house and took them out for tea (much needed mid-exam therapy). We went to a Chinese restaurant in Whitehaven which has only opened recently and has a happy hour: six courses for £9.99. Not bad! Two hours later they staggered back to the boarding house completely bloated. A wonderful meal and no-one needs to eat for three days. John came today and fed the sheep. Adrian got home early and, not realising they had already had cake, fed the sheep before catching a train to London, so double rations today. They must have thought it was Christmas!

When I got home late after taking the girls out there was a Landrover pickup parked outside the house - empty. Anyway, it turned out to be the man who has come to try to rid our land of the foxes which are terrorising our young stock. They don't go for the ewes, or lambs with their Mum's, but as soon as we wean them we lose a few. The foxes are especially hungry at the moment, as we are having a cold spell and there probably isn't much to eat. I saw one the other day, in our back garden, bold as brass. I think they are beautiful animals, but vermin all the same.

16th January: I took the Landrover to the garage today to have the recurrent fault in the handbrake fixed. It 's no good having an unreliable handbrake when one lives on the side of a hill! Eleanor's Golden Guernsey female kid, Faith, sneezed all over me this morning and left a trail of goat snot on my hand. Yeuch! I wonder if goat cold germs are zoonotic? Will I catch her cold? She seems bright enough despite her blocked nose. Actually, come to think of it, it's not blocked anymore as she quite successfully emptied it's contents over me! I am building up a lot of credits looking after Eleanor's goats while she's not at home. I think I'll trade them in after her exams and have a weekend off the twice daily routine. She is a little out of practice milking (Nicholas is probably more in practice) but it will just take her longer that's all. Somehow I feel I won't get a whole two days off, but there's no harm in dreaming.... The man sourcing our straw phoned today to confirm de-



## Herd Diary

livery of 30 bales at the weekend. Hur-ray! Problem solved for now. It looks really good quality. Very golden in colour, reminding me of summer, although we didn't have one this year. They are forecasting snow by the end of the week. Nicholas phoned to say they had lots in the Northeast. He seems very happy. He is going to a friend's at the weekend for a birthday party sleepover, so will get a break from the boarding house. The other boys and girls get home much more than he does so it's great when he can go to one of their homes on occasion. I'll need to have all his friends over here for a week to repay their parents! Aluminium is still looking quite portly, even though she has been on a diet for a week now. She is not getting less than the other goats. It's just I don't give her seconds when she asks for them as most of the other goats don't want more. She was the only one, consistently eating just a little bit more than her neighbours. None of the goats seem to drink much at the moment. I suppose there are no heavy milkers and it isn't exactly warm. One or two of them soil their water in the first 30 seconds after I replace it, but what can you do? I'm not around all day to keep a constant eye.

17th January: A bitterly cold day today and they are forecasting snow over much of the country tomorrow - even here in the Northwest of England where it hardly ever snows because of the Gulf Stream. We will see; it's certainly quite stormy outside, but I am nice and cosy as we have had new underfloor heating fitted in all the rooms, even the first

floor, which keeps the house at a nice even temperature without using wall space for radiators. It is the only real option for central heating here as we have no gas or oil, only electricity. We installed a ground source heat pump at the same time so are reasonably green with our energy consumption. For every 1KW of electricity we use to run the pump, we generate about 3KW of electricity. It was not cheap to install obviously, so it will take a few years to pay back the capital, but with the price of energy soaring, we are content we did the right thing at the right time. Eleanor's first kidder, Cornflower, was in season today. She has a very complaining sort of bleat and this went on and on and on all through the morning routine. Arghh! Anyway, no luck Cornflower. Not till next year I am afraid. Eleanor's male is on loan anyway, at the moment, and if we put her to one of the BAs we would get Tigger goats, so she is best left to complain on her own! It must have driven the other goats potty. I had a flat tyre this morning so had to pump it up as best I could and get to the garage. It turns out there was a huge nail in the side of the tyre and I had to get a brand new one. Very frustrating, as there was plenty of tread left on it. More expense at the end of the month.... I don't think the goats will sleep well tonight. They are always very anxious when the weather is wild outside the barn and are startled by every sound, such as the wheelbarrow falling over or whatever. I tried to calm them this evening by playing Classic FM on the radio while I milked, but the reception was awful because of the wind and the swaying trees



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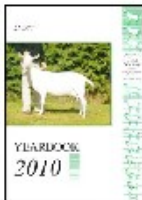
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## Herd Diary

and it didn't seem to help, although it did calm me after a stressful day!! I don't think it makes them produce more milk though, as they say of cows who are milked with Classical music in the background. I am only milking Eleanor's two Golden Guernsey milkers at the moment and they are not producing enough to be able to milk record. She hasn't managed to hit the 1000 litre mark in one lactation yet, so none of her goats has milk yield figures yet. It seems so easy with the BAs, but an uphill struggle with the Guernseys, who seem to have enough to feed their young but very moderate yields. They are on the same diet as our BAs, eating the same hay and going out to grass at the same time, so I think there must be something we could do particularly designed to increase their yields. I will look into it.

18th January: Cornflower was still bleating mournfully this morning. She must have been going all night. I did think the other goats looked bleary-eyed but I thought it was the stormy night that had caused that! The boys seem to be surviving this cold spell. In fact, they potter out in the cold, whereas they never venture forth on the rain. I always leave their food outside if it's fine, to encourage them to take exercise. They also have to go outside to reach the stream. If it's clearly going to rain all day then I put food and water in the pen. The hay rack is inside all the time of course. Carey has sore feet, but Adrian treated them recently and we are keeping an eye on him. The vet says he is showing signs of arthritis and has given him a course of

injections which they use successfully on dogs. I hope he bounces back in the spring. I always find the boys are a bit down in the winter, both in health and spirits, although their shed is quite snug and dry now we have improved the drainage. They seem to perk up come the summer, which comes early here. We usually have our best summer weather in April, often over Easter, which is the time we encourage the children to pitch their tent in the wooded area behind the house and sleep out for a night or two. If they put it off to the summer holidays they inevitably do not get the decent weather again. Adrian got home this evening, having had two days in London and two days in Birmingham lecturing at the Business School of the university. He said the snow was quite widespread down there but no sign of it here yet, as I expected. He is, at present, relaxing by doing ballet dancing on a layer of bubble wrap from a parcel delivered today. It is very distracting and NOT normal!

**Margie Simper**

*To be cont'd next month*

## New To Buying Goats?

**Getting your goat** – advice on paperwork to help those new to buying goats.

I hope that many of our new members are able to buy goats from BGS members who are able to explain these basic points to the purchaser. However, now that the internet provides a number of sites advertising goats I thought some information could be helpful in avoiding pit-falls.

Apart from the obvious issues concerning the character and conformation of a goat you are considering buying there are five issues to consider.

- Ownership
- Health
- Identification
- Breed/breed type
- Milking capacity

Of course if you are thinking of buying a goat you are going to be eager to meet her – but you can save possible misunderstandings if you take a good look at her registration card early in the proceedings. Make sure that she is registered in the name of the seller. The card will also clarify the question of the goat's breed. For example goat referred to as a Saanen should be registered in that section of the Herd Book. If she is not there she is not a Saanen however much she looks like one. The number in the top right hand corner of the registration will have letters in front of it. These letters will tell you if she is a specific breed, and of course which breed. You may not be bothered about her breed but you should not be paying

a premium for something which she is not.

The same thing applies to milking qualifications: if she has a star (\*), Q\* or milk figures they may appear on the card. However because they will have been gained after the card was issued they may not. If her milking achievements are important to you they can be checked on the Grassroots system. Milking achievements have to be recognised by the BGS and will be listed on Grassroots. Breed Challenge certificates are sent to the goat's owner and should be available for you to see if you are told that they exist.

Once you have decided to buy your goat make sure that you check that she is property identified with one ear-tag and either another ear-tag or a tattoo or pastern tag. (Older goats need only one tag) Check her health status. I would advise getting a copy of a CAE certificate issued within the last year. Get her registration card and a transfer of ownership form signed by the seller. You should then fill in your details and post it to the BGS office with the necessary fee. This is vital, otherwise when your goat kids you will not be able to register the kids because your goat will not be registered in your name. The BGS transferred the responsibility for doing this to the buyer to avoid the risk of goats not being transferred.

The situation is slightly less clear with goats not registered with the BGS. This could be because they belong to a breed which does not register through

## New To Buying Goats?

the BGS or because the goat is not registered at all. The advice on ownership and health still apply but may be harder to establish with an unregistered goat. Where there is a registration society for that type goat (Pygmies, for example) I would recommend contacting it for advice on ownership and health status. Pygmies have enjoyed considerable popularity and this in itself is a good reason to 'do your homework' before parting with your money.

Of course it is up to you to decide which of these issues are vital to you but I would urge you to take the questions of health and transfer of ownership seriously. Both can cause serious problems much later if neglected.

**Ros Earthy**

### Registration & Transfer Prices

<b>Registrations</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliated Society</b>
Female up to six months	£8.00	£16.00
Female six months to two years	£16.00	£32.00
Male up to six months	£20.00	£40.00
Male six months to two years	£40.00	£75.00
Registration in IR and SR	£8.00	£16.00
Registration by other persons in the IR and SR register £22.50		
<b>Register of a Prefix</b>	£20.00	£40.00
<b>Transfer of Ownership</b>	£6.00	£6.00

#### **Bulk Registrations**

Concession is to BGS members only, though you may apply for membership at the same time as applying for registrations. Applicable only to female kids under 6 months old and when more than 10 are registered at the same time.

The first 1- 10 females £8.00 each  
 The next 11-19 females £4.00 each  
 Any over 20 females £3.00 each

#### **Bulk Transfers**

These prices will apply when more than 10 transfer of ownership are completed at one time.

The first 1-10 £6.00 each  
 The next 11-19 £4.00 each  
 Any over 20 £3.00 each

## Classified Adverts

### GOAT BOOKS AND BUTTERCUPS

An ex-goatkeeper has brought me an assortment of goaty books to sell to anyone interested. The proceeds are to be donated to Buttercups Goat Sanctuary in Kent.

If you are interested in one or more of these, put in a bid for them. I will then post the book(s) to the highest bidder. When you receive the book(s), add the postage and send me a cheque for the total, made out to M. W. Shackles, Ddol-las, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire SA19 8JP. Tel: 01558 650 336

Email: [mwshackles@ddol-las.net](mailto:mwshackles@ddol-las.net)

All proceeds (except postage) will then be sent to Buttercups who are trying to raise a lot of money to purchase more land for more goats.

The following are in good condition:

GOAT HUSBANDRY  
Mackenzie 3rd Edition

ANGORA GOAT HUSBANDRY  
Alma Bode, Australian

ALL ABOUT GOATS  
Lois Hetherington

BOOK OF THE GOAT  
Holmes Pegler; 1965 reprint

BOOK OF THE GOAT  
Holmes Pegler; 5th Edition, 1918

DAIRY GOAT JUDGING  
TECHNIQUES

Harry Considine & Geo. W Trumberga  
USA; 1978

COMMERCIAL GOAT  
PRODUCTION  
J.M.Wilkinson & Barbara A.Stark 1987

THE ANGORA GOAT  
S.C.C.Schremer

PAPER ON THE OSTRICH CIRCA 1898 (a  
bit elderly and heavy)

The following are a bit tatty:

PRACTICAL GOATKEEPING  
Mrs. Arthur Abbey 1953 edition

GOATKEEPING FOR AMATEURS  
Holmes Pegler  
Paperback 6th edition

### For Sale:

Saenen first kidder running through: Prastens Fiala S008133D  
and goatling Prastens Felicite S008234D.

Also

British Guernsey Male:  
\$104/115 Prastens Chorus BG 00347D.

Contact: Sally Wilman 01362 684109.



## Classified Adverts

### FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

\$201/290 Zeila Kaspar BS043178D b 12/05/2012  
sire Ashdene Gustav, dam Zeila Kloklo  
email [marytyrrel844@btinternet.com](mailto:marytyrrel844@btinternet.com) (Kent)

### For Sale

Anglo Nubian doe, Allerbrook Chloe AN033164D with two female kids born 2nd March 2013. Kids sired by Friarlea Caradog  
Contact Mr D Unsworth Tel: 01308 420591

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#### DVD's

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John G. Matthews BSc, BVMS, MRCVS

#### BOOKS

All About Goats  
by Lois Hetherington  
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Veterinary section by John G. Matthews  
  
The Goatkeeper's Veterinary Book  
By Peter Dunn  
4th Edition

### Available from the BGS Office On request

BGS Rules & Regulations  
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CAE Monitored Herd Rules  
CAE Monitored Herd Forms  
BGS Milk Recording Manual ©

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**BGS Committee Notes****Summary of BGS Committee Meeting held on 9th February 2013**

Present: Mrs A Aitken (Chair), Mr R M Wood, Mr N Parr, Mrs M Hardman, Mr S Jones, Mrs R Earthy, Mrs C Ball, Mr T Hanna, Mr C Newton, Mr R Pemble. In Attendance: Mrs J Wilson. Apologies from Mrs M Ross. The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed.

The minutes were agreed subject to small changes. It was agreed that the changes in regulations should come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The rules and regulations will now be issued in a separate booklet rather than forming a part of the Yearbook.

The Chair reported on teleconferences with the Accountants, Financial Advisor and Grassroots Representatives. The draft accounts for the year end of October 2012 and the Trustees Report were accepted. Arrangements for the AGM, Affiliated Societies Conference and Committee elections were finalised.

Enquiries for exports to various countries continue to be good.

The Secretary reported that over 50% of the membership, continue to use the online Grassroots System for research, registration, transfers and service certificates. Enquiries about all aspects of goatkeeping continue to be received at the office. A meeting for milk recording secretaries will take place in Northumberland.

Several shows have cancelled the goat section in 2013 but new shows elsewhere are being recognised.

Mr N. Clayton reported by email that electronic ID by micro-chip and ID by way of pastern-tag were being investigated but are still some way off.

Mr & Mrs Featherstone had completed scanning the BGS Monthly Journals and Monthly Circulars. The discs of these publications would shortly be available for sale.

An invitation from our Patron HRH The Princess Alexandra, to a Royal Garden Party, hosted by Her Majesty the Queen, had been received. Nominees to attend the event were approved by the committee.

The financial situation is now healthy even without the legacy which should be arriving within a few weeks.

The next meeting was confirmed as 27th April 2013.



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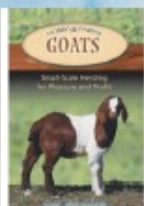


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