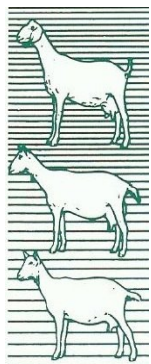


BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



May 2013
Monthly Journal
Volume 106

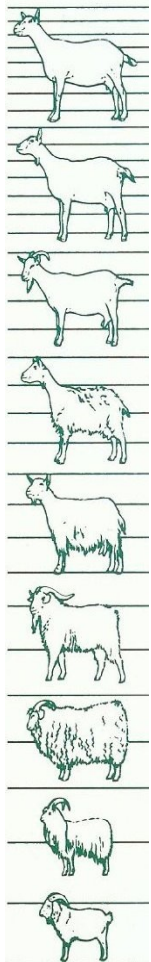
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Copy Date

Copy date is the first day of the month preceding publication

All copy and advertisements to reach the editor in good time

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Front Cover Picture

John Powell, President of the Gloucestershire Goat Club, presenting raffle prizes at the AGM

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The committee election resulted in the existing committee members all being returned, with the addition of Graham Godfrey. There were 85 eligible voting papers returned and 23 spoiled – the spoiled papers were made up of 3 which had been sent to the incorrect address and 20 which had arrived after the closing time. At the committee meeting held on 27 April, all committee members agreed to carry on in their respective roles – Graham has undertaken to ‘project manage’ the web site enhancement and adopt the role of web manager. Society business is administered by the main committee with two sub groups which report back to the main committee. A slight re-defining of the sub groups was agreed, with one group (named the Admin/HB group) now being made up of Margaret Hardman (HB co-ordinator); Nick Parr (Hon. Solicitor and Sub Group chair); Richard Pemble, (Commercial Liaison Officer); Graham Godfrey (Web manager); Richard Wood (President) and myself (Chairperson). The other group (Shows/MR/Publicity etc) consists of Colin Newton (Shows Co-ordinator and Sub Group chair); Ros Earthy (Publications/PR Co-ordinator); Christine Ball (Overseas Co-ordinator); Terry Hanna (MR Co-ordinator); Shane Jones (Publicity Co-ordinator) and Maureen Ross, immediate past President.

A good turn out of members attended the AGM hosted by Gloucestershire Goat Society on 13 April - thanks to all those connected with Gloucestershire Goat Society for hosting the meeting. It was pleasing for me to meet people from this area as, living in the north east of Scotland, I often feel rather remote from the membership outside Scotland. The AGM business was taken care of quite quickly then various cups and trophies were presented. Jane had brought along several of our magnificent trophies which made a wonderful display on the top table. Several books donated by Margaret Hardman were then auctioned off with proceeds (amounting to £80) being donated to the BGS. After lunch, the Affiliated Societies Conference was held, with only 2 of the resolutions submitted for consideration failing to secure sufficient votes to proceed to the committee for further consideration. (N.B. date for 2014 AGM – Saturday 12 April to be hosted by Scottish Goatkeepers Federation.) After the Affiliated Societies Conference, a commercial goat farmer gave a talk followed by a visit to his farm for those who wished.

Heavy hailstones here yesterday left the ground completely white ... 2nd of May!!

Agnes Aitken
Chair

NEW MEMBERS

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

Miss Eades-Willis, Lincolnshire; Mr & Mrs Lake, Ayrshire;
Miss Timms, Ceredigion; Mr Jordon, Co. Wexford; Mrs Green, Suffolk;
Mrs Evans, Lincolnshire; Mrs R Lovell, Hampshire;

SECRETARY'S NOTES

I would like to begin by thanking the Jedburgh Press for their wonderful help in producing two top notch publications in the Herd Book and the Year Book. Their help in making sure the photographs and adverts print well is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Gloucestershire Goat Club for hosting over 45 people at the AGM and to Tom Nicholls for his enlightening talk following the Affiliated Societies Conference. To Tom and his wife Clare for hosting the visit to Michaelwood Farm for over 20 people. Everyone was able to watch goats being milked in the parlour. Tom and Clare showed us around the buildings housing milking goats and youngstock, explained the set up and management as well as answering questions from those assembled.

Registrations are coming into the office fairly consistently now. If you don't own the sire, please remember to include the appropriate service certificate. Current prices appear on the next page.

Fees for Affiliated Society members (non BGS members) are double in general. All applications from Affiliated Societies members must be signed by the nominated person before sending to the BGS office. Please check that the correct payment is enclosed.

Do remember that leaflets are available from the BGS office for members to take to shows and displays.

Best Wishes
Jane

COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Name	Votes
N Parr	64
M Hardman	61
C Ball	58
A Aitken	54
C Newton	54
G Godfrey	50
S Jones	50
R Earthy48	48
R Pemble	45
T Hanna	44
V Hardy	42
R Norman	36
G Ringland	34
G George	32
D Knowles	27
Spoiled Papers	23
Valid voting papers	85

REGISTRATION PRICES**BGS Members Registration Fees**

Female up to six months	£ 8.00
Female six months to two years	£16.00
Male up to six months	£20.00
Male six months to two years	£40.00
Registration in I.R. and S.R.	£8.00

Affiliated Societies Members Fees

Female up to six months	£16.00
Female six months to two years	£32.00
Male up to six months	£40.00
Male six months to two years	£75.00
Registration in I.R. and S.R.	£16.00

SHOW UPDATES**Judges Announced:**

Alwalton Show	12th October	Judge: Mr B Perry
Ayrshire Goat Club Spring	11th May	Judge: Mr S Thomas
Bakewell	7th August	Judge: Mrs S Prior
Brecon	3rd August	Judge: Mr C Newton
Melplash	22nd Aug	Judge: Mr S Thomas
Stokesley	21st Sept	Judge: Mr S Thomas

Change of Judge:

Northern Ireland Spring	3rd & 4th May	Mr R Wiffen
South Western	7th July	Mr G Ringland

Note the date:

Scottish Goatkeepers Federation Spring (m&f)	25th May	Mrs S Prior
--	----------	-------------

Cancelled:

Goat section at Malvern & Three Counties are cancelled due to lack of entries

Margie Simper continues:

19th January: After a slow start (we were all quite tired from a busy week) we got ourselves outside and brought all the ewes down from the top field into the holding pens with a limited amount of chaos. I found one with its head stuck in the stock fencing, having seen the grass was greener on the other side, but as soon as I approached it made a more concerted effort to extract itself and popped it's head out. I find that is always happening. One wonders how long the animal has stood there with it's head stuck and not really trying hard enough to extricate itself. We ran the sheep through the race in groups of a dozen-or-so and Adrian dosed them with flukicide and vitamins, as well as wormer if they were out of condition. He also checked their feet but only a few needed attention. We then ran them through the foot bath and then put them up onto the park where there is plenty of rough grazing. We will not have to supplement their feeding so much now. It was very cold as we worked, but dry and sunny, so not a miserable experience by any means. Adrian has been doing a lot of decorating inside so he was really glad to be out enjoying the beauty of this amazing place. The goats just wanted hay today. They were not particularly interested in concentrates, probably because of the cold. The water had not frozen in the pipe to the barn so I was able to change their drinking water. Not a cheep from the man who was going to deliver straw. I wonder if I will hear from him tomorrow. Nicholas 'phoned to say they had

had so much snow that the boy and girl choristers had built an igloo on the back yard, using a 2 litre icecream box to make bricks! The housemistress there loves a free gift of entertainment like that. The children can have a whale of a time for hours and it costs her nothing. She is in a very limited budget for week-end entertainments and it must be quite hard sometimes thinking what to do with forty boys and girls, especially in the winter. I think I am coming down with a cold, which is a nuisance as, no doubt, I will give it to the whole family. Ummm....I wonder if I caught it from the kid (as in goat) sneezing all over me or the kid (as in child) breathing all over me in a singing lesson last week!

20th January: Yes, I woke up with a heavy cold this morning! Let's hope this is my one winter cold and I avoid catching any more. Adrian sat down all day to finish our tax return. I provided him with any figures he needed from my holiday cottage and he got it off to our accountant, so that is a relief. Last year we filed late and had to pay a fine. Cornflower has stopped bleating incessantly but has very loose stools (like cow pats rather than droppings). As this is often seems to be the case when the goats are in season, I am not really worried. Unfortunately, however, the straw was not delivered this weekend as promised, so I am using old hay to provide her with a clean bed. Adrian started tiling the kitchen this evening, and I think it is going to be lovely when it is finished. Duncan, a colleague of Adrian's, came over to pick up some of our hogs. He

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2013 AGM L to R Margaret Hardman, Nick Parr, Agnes Aitken, Jane Wilson

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has some land but no stock (although he does have a Holding number) so he is going to over-winter some of our young stock for us, which is great. If this is successful, we will do it again next year. As is often the case, we have too much grazing in the summer, but not enough to support our flock numbers in the winter. Early night tonight! If the entry for today seems short, blame the cold.

21st January: Feeling much better today. We woke early (care of the alarm clock!) to a white world. It had snowed very silently through the night. We always have the window open wide at night, even in the winter. Adrian has always liked the feeling of fresh air in his face (he hates a stuffy room at night) and he does not feel the cold. Over the years he has converted me, although I always have an extra cover over my side of the bed as I do feel the cold! Even with the window open we were not aware of the snow falling till morning. I suppose we are used to a howling gale but the snow came on an otherwise still night. We frequently fall asleep to the sound of an owl hooting quite close to the house. I like the sound. I am less keen on the bats, especially when they fly into our room through the open window, as they have done on more than one occasion. Then I just put my head under the duvet and say to Adrian "deal with it!". I don't like mice at the best of times, but flying mice are the limit! Adrian had to leave early to catch a train, especially as the weather prevented him from driving over the fell to Oxenholme station. He had to drive on

the coastal route around the bottom of the fell to avoid the worst of the snow on the roads. That took a bit longer, but he still managed to catch the train. Adrian always regards himself as arriving too early for a train if he does anything other than step straight on to it. He hates standing on station platforms. I, on the other hand, prefer to be early and hang around if necessary. If I step straight onto a train then I regard that as arriving very late. Oh well, he must be more laid back than me. Actually, anyone who knows me must know that my time-keeping is pretty bad. That should be one of my New Year Resolutions - to be more on time for everything so people do not have to give me a start time 30 minutes before the real start time to ensure I'm prompt, just as the Northern England Goat Club fellow committee members do for all their meetings! The billy goats did not want to go out today, even though it was not snowing when I fed them. They did not like the feel of the snow under their feet and picked their way daintily over the ground when I put their food in a bucket outside to ensure they came out at least once during the day. "How mean!" I here some of you cry, but, honestly, if they were fed and watered indoors in all weathers, they would never go out, they are so lazy. Then they end up all stiff in the joints because they have taken no exercise, but sat huddled in a corner all day. Just a walk out to get a drink or some food is enough to keep them mobile, so except on wet days, I make it my policy to place everything a few yards from their shed door.

HERD DIARY

22nd January: The temperature plummeted over night, but there was no more snow, so the drive was pretty treacherous this morning. I slid down the worst bit, but got to work OK, although a little late. Eleanor has her last exam this morning. It is History. She will come home tonight to have a night off the school homework routine, so maybe I will get some help with the goat routine this evening. Maybe.... Cornflower is now producing piles and piles of tiny little droppings, like sheep droppings. I cannot believe how much she must have had inside her. She must have lost a stone, but actually, she doesn't look any different and is eating fine. Everyone else has hearty appetites, even Echo, who can go off her food for days in a row when her feet hurt. Adrian drove from the station via home in the middle of the day before he went on to the office in the afternoon. He met the electricity meter reader starting to attempt the drive in a tiny bubble car. Adrian immediately stopped him and told him it was extremely unlikely he would make it! I am glad he caught him before he attempted it and got into serious trouble. I didn't leave work till 6:30 this evening so I got us fish and chips on the way home. I didn't feel like cooking to be honest. I had haddock and Adrian had cod, but I couldn't really tell the difference between them - just white fish. I'm sure they should have a different flavour. I was brought up on haddock and chips during my childhood in Scotland (a fish supper) and Adrian was brought up on cod and chips in England. I remember, when I first moved south of the boarder, how different the fish and chips tasted.

Tonight they definitely tasted the same. Adrian is now helping Eleanor with her Biology homework and trying to stay calm! She is also being very patient, so I don't think they will fall out over it tonight. I am planning on another early night as I woke up at 3am this morning and could not get back to sleep. That is unlike me as, ordinarily, I am a very good sleeper. We have some guests in the cottage arriving on Saturday, but I got an email saying they would not be arriving until Sunday, or maybe Monday, as they were coming up from Dover. Does that mean they will be taking one to two days to drive up from the south coast (a nine-hour journey I would say) or that they are waiting for the snow to clear from the southern counties? The message is unclear. Anyway, at least that means I will have the whole of Saturday to freshen up the cottage and make sure it is warm and welcoming on arrival.

23rd January: There is still quite a lot of snow lying in Wasdale, but none at all on the coast at St. Bees. Wasdale seems to have it's own micro-climate at times and just a five-minute drive to Gosforth takes one to completely different weather conditions. I suppose it's being surrounded by hills, but also near the coast; our weather cannot decide if we are a hilly or a coastal area, for which the forecast is always completely different. I finished early today as the Director of Music is off with a bad back and it was decided to cancel our regular Wednesday orchestra rehearsal. I usually take it for him if he's away, but he had

AGM & FARM VISIT



Members attending the AGM hosted by the Gloucestershire Goat Club



Michaelwood Dairy Goats in the milking parlour and housing
<http://www.farmersguardian.com/from-holstein-cows-to-dairy-goats/14079.article>

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

A proposed amendment to the BGS Regulations was published in the December 2012 Journal. It has come to light that the deletions were not picked up when the document went to the printers, therefore, losing the meaning of some of the changes. The Committee agreed at its meeting on the 27 April that these amendments to the BGS Regulations should be re-printed in the next available Monthly Journal. In accordance with Rule 16 a vote regarding the changes to these Regulations will take place at the Committee Meeting on 31 July 2013.

Propose that Regulations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11 be amended as indicated below. Amendments and additions are shown in red and deletions have been struck through. For ease of understanding the Regulations have been left in their entirety.

Procedure for Registration

1. Every application for any form of registration must be made **either by 'manage your herd' on Grassroots (this is only available to British Goat Society members) or** on an official form available for that purpose, obtainable from the Secretary or via the British Goat Society website www.allgoats.com. The goat must be eligible for registration, and be named, in accordance with the Society's Regulations. For entry in the Herd Book, Foundation Book, Supplementary Register, all progeny of one mating must be registered at the same time. No goat entered in the Herd Book may be re-entered in or transferred to, any other Section thereof, subject to Regulation 27. A goat entered in the Supplementary Register or Identification Register may upon qualifying under Regulation 4(2), be re-registered in the Foundation Book and thereafter any of its progeny previously registered in the Foundation Book or Supplementary Register may be entered in the Herd Book subject to Regulation 2, provided in each case that the original registration card is surrendered, the appropriate form is completed and the fee paid. All information asked for must be given on the form which must be certified and signed by the applicant, and then sent with any enclosures specified thereon to the Secretary who will issue, provided all the Regulations of the Society have been complied with, a certificate confirming each registration and the number under which it has been recorded. No duplicate of such certificate will be issued under any circumstances. All applications from members of an Affiliated Society must be forwarded through an authorised officer of the Affiliated Society.

Goats Eligible for Entry in the Herd Book

2. A Male or Female Goat is eligible for entry in the Herd Book, subject to Regulations 13 and 27, if it complies with the following conditions:
 - (1) (a) Male Goat. The sire and dam are entered in the Herd Book.
 - (b) Female Goat. The sire is entered in the Herd Book and the dam is entered either in the Herd Book or the Foundation Book.
 - (2) It is not ~~less than one calendar month nor~~ more than two years old.
 - (3) The person making the entry is a Member of the Society, or a Member of an Affiliated Society and the breeder of the goat, i.e. the owner of its dam at the time the goat was born, in whose ownership the dam had been duly registered.
 - (4) A certificate of service of the dam is presented (See Regulation 18(b)) signed by the registered owner of the sire (or an authorized agent) **or a service certificate can be completed on line (via Grassroots) by the registered owner of the sire. A copy of the service certificate does not need to be presented if the person applying for registration was the owner of the sire at the date of service or if the service certificate was completed on line.**
 - (5) Other progeny of the same mating has not been registered previously.
 - (6) All goats shall have an individual identification mark.

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

- (i) The primary means of identification must be an ear tag ~~which should be inserted in the left ear~~. The tags must be pre-printed and both the tags and the printing must be approved by the appropriate Government Agency.
~~If the identification is by tattoo, the herd/flock mark is to be inserted in the left ear and the individual number and the BGS sequence of letters is to be inserted in the right ear.~~
 - (ii) The individual identification mark to be applied in accordance with Regulation 11.
 - (iii) The individual identification mark to be quoted **whether registering on line or** on the registration application form.
- (7) All or any of the conditions (1) to (5) may be waived by the Committee if the goat is:
- (a) imported
 - (b) imported in its dam or
 - (c) born as a result of the use of imported semen (see Regulation 13(1) or
 - (d) born as a result of embryo transfer (see Regulation 13(2)).
- The Committee must be satisfied that the goat so registered can be recognised as pure bred.
- (8) The age limit of two years will be waived in the event of a goat becoming eligible for entry in the Herd Book by reason of its dam qualifying for and being entered in the Foundation Book under Regulation 4(2), if it has been registered previously in the Foundation book or Supplementary Register.

Goats Eligible for Entry in the Foundation Book

4. A Female Goat only is eligible for entry in the Foundation Book, subject to Regulations 13 and 27, if it complies with the conditions of (1) or (2):
- (1)
 - (a) The sire is entered in the Herd Book and the dam is entered in the Supplementary Register.
 - (b) It is not ~~less than one calendar month nor~~ more than two years old.
 - (c) The person making the entry is a Member of the Society, or a Member of an Affiliated Society and the breeder of the goat, i.e. the owner of its dam at the time the goat was born, in whose ownership the dam has been duly registered.
 - (d) A certificate of service of the dam is presented (See Regulation 18(b)) signed by the registered owner of the sire (or an authorized agent) **or a service certificate can be completed on line (via Grassroots) by the registered owner of the sire. A copy of the service certificate does not need to be presented if the person applying for registration was the owner of the sire at the date of service or if the service certificate was completed on line.**
 - (e) Other progeny of the same mating has not been registered previously.
 - (2) The goat has won a Star or Q Star or has qualified for the prefix R and is owned by a Member of the Society or a member of an Affiliated Society.
 - (3) That all goats must have an individual identification mark.

Goats Eligible for Entry in the Supplementary Register

5. A Female Goat only is eligible for entry in the Supplementary Register, subject to Regulation 27, if it complies with the following conditions:
- (1) The sire is entered in the Herd Book.
 - ~~(2) It is not less than one calendar month old.~~
 - (2) The person making the entry is the breeder of the goat, i.e. the owner of its dam at the time the goat was born.
 - (3) A certificate of service of the dam is presented (See Regulation 18(b)) signed by the registered owner of the sire (or an authorized agent) **or a service certificate can be completed on line (via Grassroots) by the registered owner of the sire. A copy of the service certificate does not need to be presented if the person applying for registration was the owner of the sire**

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

at the date of service or if the service certificate was completed on line.

- (4) Other progeny of the same mating have not been registered previously.
- (5) That all goats must have an individual identification mark.

Goats Eligible for Entry in the Identification Register

- 6. A Female Goat only is eligible for entry in the Identification Register, subject to Regulation 27, if it complies with the following conditions:
 - (1) It is not eligible for the Herd Book, Foundation Book or Supplementary Register.
 - (2) ~~It is not less than one calendar month old.~~
 - (2) That all goats must have an individual identification mark.

Procedure for Earmarking Identification

- 11. (a) An approved identification mark shall consist of a series of numbers which are a combination of the Herd Number (six digits) which is allocated by the appropriate Government Agency and an individual number which may be allocated by the breeder of the goat (or by the appropriate Government Agency should it decide to do so). Some Government Agencies may require leading zeros before the individual number. A country of origin mark will precede the Herd number but it will not form part of the registration number for BGS purposes.
- (b) Goats born after 31 December 2009 need to be double identified by one of the following methods:
 - i) two ear tags with the same unique 12 digit number.
 - ii) an ear tag and a tattoo with the same unique 12 digit number (UK code and flock number on one ear, individual animal number of the other). The tattoo can go across both ears.
 - iii) an ear tag and a pastern mark with the same unique 12 digit number.

EID is voluntary for goats, however, if they are born after 31 December 2009 and intended for export, they must be full EID identified.

- (c) Should the original identification mark become indistinct or lost, the identification as stated on the registration card must be renewed in accordance with the current regulations of the appropriate Government Agency. ~~and the BGS either:~~
 - ~~i) by tattoo for goats born on or before 9th July 2005 (a tag may be substituted if preferred).~~
 - ~~ii) by a tag to replace a tag.~~

If there is any change to the individual identification number, the registration card and any fees due shall be sent to the BGS Secretary who will amend the card and the records held by the Society.
- ~~(e) A sequence of letters for incorporation in earmarks may be assigned for use by a Member of the Society, by an Affiliated Society, or by a member of an Affiliated Society. Application for such a letter sequence shall be made to the Secretary. Unless the Committee determines otherwise, such a letter sequence shall be reserved for the sole use of the person or Affiliated Society to whom it is assigned.~~

Proposed: Margaret Hardman
Seconded: Nick Parr

HERD DIARY

the orchestral parts home with him and so we had no music. I had to go out to a meeting tonight, so it was nice to come home and do the evening goat routine early before I went out again, rather than have to do it late when I got back. Adrian was out as well, so he couldn't help. The man from Kirkland Kitchens came today to finish off the remaining little jobs on the kitchen still requiring attention. When I arrived home he had been working in the house for hours with the back door wide open and it was hovering between 0 and -2 degrees outside! The poor underfloor heating was struggling to keep the house even remotely warm. It does annoy me.

24th January: Our drive is still a bit icy but the Tesco van got up alright this evening so it is not too bad. I had made a point of ordering some haggis for Burns Night tomorrow, but there was none so they simply credited me for the cost and I was left with neeps and tatties but no haggis to have with them. Looking at the contents of my fridge, it's going to be fish fingers with neeps and tatties. Umm.....not very authentic. Oh well, the malt whisky will do something to improve things! Maybe I will get a chance to buy some tomorrow. I have never tried to make it myself and don't intend to change that. I had to play the organ for the school church assembly this morning. I am not really an organist - more a pianist who can play the organ keyboard but not the pedals. Anyway, it was good enough for what they wanted and showed I was not afraid to jump in at the deep end and help out even if I

was somewhat under-qualified! Eleanor said I was a bit weedy and could have made a lot more noise, so next time (if there is a next time) I shall be pulling all the stops out.....The goats were very quiet this evening. Not a cheep (bleat) when I stuck my head around the barn door on arrival and not the usual loud commentary when Adrian carried the goat food from the car to the feed bin for me. I think they were just tired. I am usually made to feel quite guilty for leaving them throughout the day and told in no uncertain terms that I am behind schedule with their evening meal when I first walk into the barn. So tonight was different. I do not think they were being polite; just too idle to talk. The kids were friendly enough but just quiet, like the rest. I think the short days make them feel lethargic. I know the feeling! I had a nice long chat with Becky Torrance of the Ivybeck Golden Guernsey herd. Eleanor has used her males many a time and bought one of her goatlings in kid to boost her herd a couple of years ago. It is nice to keep up with "goaty" friends in the winter, as no-one sees much of each other throughout the winter months and one can begin to feel quite isolated.

25th January: They forecast a significant fall of snow today, in the latter part of the day, so many schools closed at lunchtime, causing child-care complications for the whole county. St. Bees School, of course, never closes! We don't need to - we have boarding houses to go to in an emergency. Well, there were a few flurries of very wet snow, but otherwise it seemed a fuss about nothing, or so it

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seemed. It turned out to be very localised, particularly Wasdale! I took Eleanor and a friend out to see a production at the local theatre in Cockermouth (where they had the dreadful floods three years ago) and there it was just miserable and rainy. Just before the show, Adrian phoned said he only got home from work because he could get through in his Defender. There had been such a major snowfall in the late afternoon that cars were slipping all over the place and it was really quite treacherous. So we had two completely different weather conditions. I risked staying for the play, assuming it might all turn to rain and when we left at 10:15 it was just wet all the way to Whitehaven. Then we struck the snow line! The main road was passable as far as the end of the trunk road, as it had been ploughed. After that the road was uncleared for the last 15 minutes of my drive. It was slippery, but OK in the Discovery and on arrival I headed confidently up our drive, only to start slipping and then get stuck at the steepest part! I think I wasn't brave enough to go at a reasonable speed to keep up the momentum. Anyway, Adrian, bless him, who had already gone to bed (it was now nearly midnight) came and dug us out. I was suitably teased.....I expect there will be a lot of walkers in the valley tomorrow looking for a winter walk. I hope they are all sensible so that Wasdale Mountain Rescue don't have to be called out. The goat shed was looking smart this morning. John had been up yesterday and, in order to keep warm (!), had decided to stay inside with the goats and clean up. All

the excess straw bursting out from under the pens was removed and the floor neatly swept. The bales of hay were piled up tidily and it really looked quite respectable (apart from the goats themselves!). Actually, they are not looking too bad. Their winter coats are making one or two of them lose their shine, but their black and whites are still good and they all seem in good condition.

26th January: As I write, there is a Japanese TV news crew from the equivalent of their BBC interviewing Adrian in our kitchen! This is such a surreal experience I felt I had to share it. They are in the kitchen recording an interview with Adrian in front of the Aga. He has 10 minutes of a 50-minute documentary in which to talk about the nuclear industry in the UK and how our experiences in decommissioning can be applied to their clean-up post-Fukushima. They speak no English, so we have an interpreter. They are incredibly polite and courteous (lots of bowing) and gave me a present beautifully wrapped (saying "a memento from the NHK" which is their BBC). It is a hand-embroidered tablecloth. Next we go outdoors. They are interested in showing to the Japanese man on the street that Adrian Simper, the man chosen to be the UK representative during their post-Fukushima nuclear policy decision-making, is also a man who lives "on the land" and has his feet firmly in the soil! The outside footage is of us all with the sheep and goats. Eleanor has her best goat hat on in readiness! If anyone can get the Japanese TV news channel, then you will be able to watch it, but there

will be no subtitles and Adrian's voice will be dubbed over by an interpreter. But at least the Woolsome BAs and Nettle-dale GGs will be on prime-time TV, which will be some kind of advertisement for UK goat-keepers (maybe?!). Adrian is intrigued to know how they will translate British Alpine! We managed to put the goats out for a few hours after the film crew had gone. They were so excited to be out at first, but soon thought better of it and fussed at the gate until we let them in again. All the kids immediately paired up with their Mum's, which was interesting, although the Mums themselves weren't that impressed at the kids sharing their hay. We put them all back together in one pen eventually, as they are completely weaned and are as boisterous as they were as little kids but are now huge. The Mums don't take kindly to 20 kilos of kid leaping on their back!

27th January: I had what felt like a really long sleep-in this morning and when I checked the time it was only 8:30, so that was quite good I suppose. Instead of taking advantage of this and getting up and on with useful things I made a mug of tea and went back to bed with my book. Oh well, I reckon the goats can have a lie-in too sometimes. When I did wake them up some time later they still had hay in their racks from last night, so they could not make me feel too guilty about being neglected. They did comment about missing breakfast and having to have brunch instead! I think Eleanor's Siwmae is in season again! Will she ever stop. Her pen was a quagmire which is one of her first

symptoms, as her whole body goes into over-drive. So I completely re-strawed her pen to make it more pleasant for her, whereupon Aria stuck her head through the bars and started eating it methodically until there was a un-strawed strip all the way down one side of Siwmae's pen. The new straw was to be delivered this weekend - not a cheep from the man who was to deliver it. I think I'll have to look elsewhere. Our very good friend, Caroline, came to stay the night and took us out for a pub meal. We went to out local inn in Nether Wasdale, The Screes, as it has changed hands and we wanted to try it. The food was about average, I would say, but the place had lost it's atmosphere completely. It was almost empty and was somewhat soulless. Caroline has to come up here on a regular basis for work and she always stays with us rather than a hotel. She says it is like a second home. We often refer to the guest bedroom as Caroline's room. We did not stay up very late drinking malt whisky and talking and catching up on news as we so often do with her. We decided an early night in preparation for Monday morning was wiser. Gosh, we must be getting middle-aged!

28th January: It seems to be getting lighter in the mornings gradually each week. I always leave with Eleanor on a Monday morning at 7:45 am and she drives me in the little secondhand Kia Picanto we bought her to learn to drive on (it was cheaper to buy and insure a small car than to add her to the insurance on the Landrover. As we left, she

asked my advice as to whether she should put her lights on or not. We decided yes in the end but only as a precaution. I am sure last week we had no choice! I had fun with my girls' choir rehearsing an arrangement for girls' voices of *Les Miserables*. We are performing it next week as part of the school's Fringe Week which the Music Department runs once a year. We have solos and group performances during every break and lunch hour and raise money for the school charities of the year. I thought people were really "in to" *Les Miserables* at the moment so hope they will give generously. I remembered tonight that I must get in touch with the person who borrowed Eleanor's kid male Golden Guernsey, Nettledale Pickle. He was a local man with four GG girls, two milkers and two goatlings, but not, as yet, a member of the BGS. I am working on him to join the Northern England Goat Club initially, maybe get him to register his goats, and go from there.

29th January: I had to take Adrian's Defender to the garage today as his headlights have stopped working (internally as opposed to just the bulbs). He could only drive in daylight which was difficult at this time of year when you are working full time. While it is at the garage they will check the clutch which is slipping and realign the front wheels. Arghh! They 'phoned at midday to say both front tyres were bald so two new tyres. That is three this month (counting the one with the nail in on my car) and we wanted a low-cost month after paying for our kitchen. Typical! The garage

lent me another Defender, just to get me to work and back. They apologised for it being dirty. I assumed they meant inside. Actually, it was inside. I reckon the last user had been transporting pigs! Anyway, I am sure I had an interesting aura about me when I got to school, so I used a liberal amount of body spray on my outside clothing! I started the symptoms of a cold again this evening. This is ridiculous - I didn't catch any at all the whole of last term and now that is two on the first three weeks of term. At least Adrian is away till tomorrow night so, hopefully, I will not give it to him again but will be over the worst. I am not tolerant of colds. They make me really grumpy

30th January: I started the day lazily, as my first two singing pupils cancelled for various reasons. That gave me a whole extra hour which I should have filled with useful things but ended filling up by doing my normal morning goat routine slower! The goats were not particularly hungry this morning. John had been up during the day yesterday so they had had their hay racks filled up once more, if not twice more, than usual and had gorged themselves on it I expect. For once, concentrates seemed less attractive. Well I would rather they ate their fill of hay than stuff their tummies with the protein mix, especially as they are not milking heavily at the moment. Phossie (Woolsome Phosphorous) was clearly not feeling well today. I am going to keep an eye on her as I thought I could detect a small discharge from her rear end, and since she is in kid, it worries me

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slightly. She is not due until the 20th April and so is the last to kid. At present, therefore, she is only just over two months into her pregnancy. I would very much like to get a female from her as she continues the line from Monochrome Polonaise (our foundation BA) through Nitrogen (our first good BA milker of our own breeding) with Carrick Carey to Phossie and maintains the really pretty dairy face that that direct line has got. The other line we have bred tends to have great black and whites but more of a butch face - less feminine. I took some Day Nurse to get me though the morning and then by the afternoon my cold had miraculously disappeared as quickly as it came! Adrian got back late in the evening and we discussed the "no" vote to the Waste Repository which Cumbria County Council has just made.

31st January: Phossie still off her food and pawing (hoofing!) at her bedding like an expectant mother. She even answered a distant bleat from a newly-born Bagot kid in the woods behind the goat barn which is a bit worrying. It all seems to point to her having an early labour and aborting the foetus. I will keep a very close eye on her and get the vet at the first sign of trouble. I might even get the vet anyway to give her the once-over if she doesn't start eating soon. All this could be in my imagination as she doesn't appear to be distressed in any way. I fed the billies this morning with my head torch on because it was still quite dark. They don't seem to mind it too much. The girls, on the other hand, get freaked out by torches and, funnily enough, um-

brellas as I discovered once! They also don't like Adrian coming into the barn with the foot clippers. He finds it very sad, because I feed them look after their daily needs and thereby get all their love and devotion; he looks after their health and well-being, trimming hooves, vaccinating, drenching etc. and they are all scared of him! They don't understand the concept of being cruel to be kind. Echo is the only one who actually likes all the wormer or fluker or vitamins or copper solutions, whatever Adrian doses them with. She just likes anything to eat or drink; anything in her mouth at all. She is definitely not keen on having her pedicure though. Anyway, it is the last day of the month; February tomorrow. I hope you have enjoyed a month in the life of the Woollsome Goat herd and perhaps know Adrian and Margie and Eleanor (not to forget Nicholas who wants to start with his own herd of Pure Toggenburgs when he's old enough) , the Simper family, a little better.

Margie Simper

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MRS MARGARET WRIGHT

Mrs Margaret Wright of the Doxford herd of British Saanens died on 22nd February after leading a very full and varied life.

I had the privilege of knowing Margaret since I was in my teens. She was devoted to her family and so supportive of her husband, Bill, in all his goat breeding, showing and judging. They enjoyed travelling the length and breadth of Britain including many trips to Orkney where Bill was a very popular judge of goats and Clydesdales. Their travels also took them to Canada where Bill was judging Clydesdales. Another interest she and Bill shared was researching family history.

Margaret was a most hospitable hostess who always showed great interest in everyone she met and of their families. A warm welcome was always extended to visitors including delicious home cooking and baking. I still use her cheese recipe.

A very moving service was held in Durham and attended by several goat keeping friends. Margaret had left instructions for the funeral which included the message: Do your best; Keep your promises; Fulfil your obligations and Tell the truth.

To Bill, Alan, David and the whole family we send our deepest sympathy.

Maureen Ross

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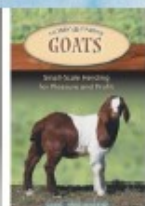


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