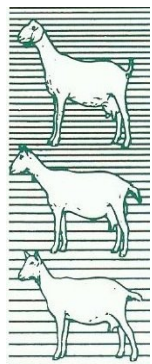


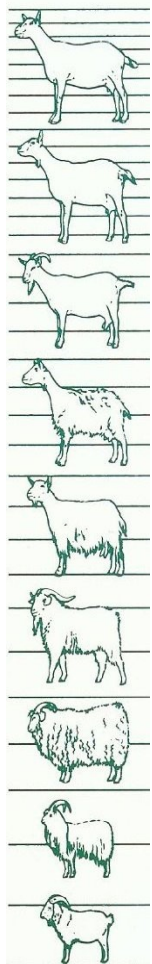
BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY



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February/March 2014

Monthly Journal

Volume 107

Page no 29 - 52

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Website: 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.

Price 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.

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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:

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Front Cover Picture

Biblin Zinnia Q* BrCh BA018093D Owned by Chris Hagain, Bred by Ros Earthy.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It is with regret that I have to make members aware of Shane Jones' resignation from the committee. Thanks are extended to Shane for his attendance at meetings and all the work he put in to the successful production of calendars and other publicity items for the Society over the years he filled the role of Publicity Co-ordinator. I'm sure the committee and entire membership will join me in sending best wishes to Shane for the future. I'm pleased to be in a position to advise you that Rachel Norman has accepted an invitation to fill the committee vacancy created by Shane's departure and that Vicky Hardy accepted an invitation to fill the vacancy created by Graham Godfrey's departure.

I have had teleconference meetings with our accountant and financial adviser, both of whom have no issues or concerns about our Society affairs. Society investments have performed well and of course we now have the major part of our substantial legacy invested in an Investment Portfolio, all of which will ensure the future financial security of the Society.

At the most recent committee meeting, Mrs Lecky Thyne had her application for a judge's licence approved. It was agreed to explore the setting up of a BGS Facebook account and move forward the work required to create a selection of DVD clips on various informational/educational topics which will be posted on social media sites and our own web site. Discussion has commenced with the web site developer and the site development project will be delivered in various stages, the first stage is underway and it entails deciding on how the site 'home page' will look – agreement has been reached to incorporate both our 'various breeds of goats outlined in green' column logo and the photographic montage depicting the various breeds of goats as standard throughout the site. Funding was approved for a Grassroots enhancement which will make viewing of milking competition results possible. A suggestion to change the annual CAE test required for show attendance to bi-annual was discussed and an invitation from Northumbrian Dairy Goat Society to hold an Autumn Conference later this year was accepted.

I look forward to seeing members at the AGM in Edinburgh on 12th April when a new president will be elected. I would like to record my thanks to Richard Wood the soon-to-retire president for the work he has done whilst in post. Richard will continue to attend meetings in his capacity as a committee member and immediate past president for the next 2 years. I would also like to record a special thanks to Maureen Ross, who attended her last committee meeting during February in her capacity as immediate past president.

Agnes Aitken

Cheese Making Course

The Gloucestershire Goat Society intend to organise a Cheese Making Class on a Saturday in March or April 2014. Starting at 10.00am to 4.00pm at North Nibley Village Hall. Charges to be paid in advance, will be £10.00 for GGS members, £15.00 for adults and Free for young enthusiasts in full time education. Our instructor has made goat's cheese for many years, selling it at several local Farmers' Markets.

If interested please contact Ruth Candy, telephone 01453 542 230

NATIONAL BREED SHOW & NOTTS MALE & FEMALE SHOW

28TH – 29TH JUNE 2014

Both Shows are British Goat Society – ‘A’ award status

Back to Back Shows @ Newark Showground, Notts.

Chief Steward – Vicki Hardy

Judge: Mr D Brace (Notts. male & female show).

Schedules: Breed Shows please contact breed societies.

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The Prize money is as follows:

Milkers £38, £30, £22, £16, £11, £11

Youngstock £19 £16 £13 £11 £6

Milk results are provided at the show

Each entry is £5.10 for Members of the RWAS and £10.20 for Non Members. Pen Fee £10.00 (pen size 5' x 5')

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We are Bob and Susan Mason, our home, Middle Third House, is situated 12 miles south of Perth, Scotland and lies on the northern edge of the Ochil Hills some 800 feet above sea level, overlooking the Earn Valley. The house faces due north with stunning views. We don't have many trees, the wind sees to that, and the single track road to the village blocks in a heartbeat when there is snow. 4x4s are mandatory! The house is part of an old farm steading built about 1860 and the house itself is sheltered by the traditional U-shaped steading to the south. There are some brick buildings abutting the steading built as cow byres. We use one for the horses' stables, and the other for storage, garaging, work shop etc. To the west of the steading building but joined to it is a new steel shed which replaced a much larger brick cattle reed which collapsed under 4 feet of snow on Boxing Day, 2010! We have about 6 acres of paddocks which is great for grazing and we buy in round bale hay from a local contractor and straw from a local farmer. Concentrates we buy from the local feed store in Milnathort some 7 miles away across the hill. We have two horses, 14 goats, two seventeen year old cats and a Rhodesian Ridgeback dog called Percy (named after Percy Montgomery, the handsome Springbok full back!).

1st - 4th January

Up bright and early and no hangover! Weather awful yet again but still no snow – very abnormal for here but we'll cover more of that later. Goats and horses all well. I tidy up the sheds and

get ready to travel through to Glasgow to see my mother and also watch the Glasgow Warriors vs Edinburgh rugby match at Scotstoun. Mother is 91 in March and has been in hospital with various ailments since the end of October. So sad to see her there but she has been lucky being reasonably mobile and in her own home until she was 90. She seems OK but tires quickly. We leave after half an hour and travel the 5 miles to Scotstoun from the hospital. It is absolutely lashing and brings back memories of the week before Christmas when the game against Treviso was called off 30 minutes before kick-off. This time we stay in the car and listen to Radio Scotland for updates. Sure enough, 50 minutes to go, game postponed again!

The rest of the week stays wet and windy. The good news is that the three females we want in kid seem to have held. We put them to the billy late because we go on holiday to India in early April and my elder brother comes up from Petersfield to look after the animals. Leaving kids to feed and goats to milk would not be welcome! Kidding should start in late April/early May. I must go the feed store on Friday and buy more hard feed and shavings for the horses' beds. I will start getting in extra feed in case the weather changes.

I am off all week and start work again on the 6th. It has been a good break, very restful even though the weather has been dire which meant I couldn't do anything outside.

NEWCAIRN HERD DIARY

I took Karamac back to Beth Fairley on Saturday. We will miss him; he has been an absolute gent. I trimmed his feet before returning him and he is one of the easiest goats to do I have ever experienced (apart

Essex.

Back to work – and it was not easy after two weeks off. I got quite used to the lie-in to 7am. Now it's back to the 5.15am wake up to feed and water animals be-

fore setting off over the hill to dash over the Forth Bridge before rush hour. I am normally in work before 7.30am unless I am off on my travels to London or further afield.

I had to leave work early on Monday because we had a new biomass boiler fitted before Christmas and it was being commissioned in the afternoon. It is now working away merrily and the house is warmer already!

We used to have an LPG

boiler but LPG is SO expensive and two winters ago we ran out of gas because the delivery truck could not get up our hill for weeks due to ice and snow. That was the winter that the old cattle sheds behind the steading started to show signs of collapse due to three feet of snow on the roof. It was Boxing Day and we had experienced quite a lot of snow from about 25 November. We had a good foot of snow lying and it was frozen. The roofs were clear because when it snows up here there is normally wind as well and it rarely lies on the roofs. Christmas night though it snowed and snowed with no wind and it was also particularly wet snow, therefore very heavy. I went to feed the goats in



Middle Third House showing the house, steading and new steel shed

from pulling my sweater and tee shirt up and nuzzling my bare back!).

5th - 11th January

Sunday is lazy preparing to go back to work. I work in Edinburgh at Selex – we design develop and produce military airborne lasers, directed infra-red counter measures, airborne fire control radars and surveillance radars. I am the VP Sales and am responsible for the company's orders. It is fascinating work – difficult in a recession, but fascinating and worthwhile nonetheless. 2014 will bring different challenges. Susan works from home but has been promoted and will spend much of January on training courses in Edinburgh, London and

NEWCAIRN HERD DIARY

the morning and, having struggled out to the sheds, I fed the goats in the near shed but when I got to the far shed (the sheds were M-roof design, two parallel gables with a valley gutter between) I could not open one of the gates and noticed that the gate was not parallel to the gate post. I then had a very strange tingling sensation in the back of my neck.....I walked back to the valley part of the shed which was supported by

weather of winter 2013/14 so strange. It is wet and windy but we have had no snow yet – and long may it continue.

The rest of the week was routine with no change in the weather and goats munching away happily. Planning for the rest of the month was also achieved, feet trimming to be done, mucking out and transporting two Hemdun goats (our daughter Helen's) to Dumfriesshire at some stage.



Typical winter scene at Middle Third

internal walls and found that both walls were leaning away from the vertical by at least a foot. The weight of snow had pushed the sheds away from the old steading. Luckily, we had enough room in the old steading to house all the goats although there were three to a pen in some. You have never seen 20 goats moved so quickly!

The weather of winter 2010 makes the

12th - 18th January

Another routine week at work, and Susan was away for Monday and Tuesday in Edinburgh but was home for the rest of the week.

I held an "away day" for my team on Thursday in an Edinburgh hotel. We reviewed the performances of last year and looked at what we have to do this year. With a following wind 2014 should be good with some major contracts due to be let across all our products. However with age

and experience comes cynicism and I will not be falling into the trap of over-forecasting!

Saturday saw major steps forward in preparation for kidding. Goats were relocated to other pens and the brick pens in the steading (which were calf pens originally) were mucked to the floor in preparation for power washing next weekend.

Newcairn Herd Diary

On Saturday afternoon we drove to Glasgow to see Mother and then on to Scotstoun to watch Glasgow Warriors play Toulon in the Heineken Cup. Glasgow played well but it ended up Glasgow vs Johnny Wilkinson and Glasgow going down 8 – 15.

19th - 25th January

On Sunday we hooked up the trailer and loaded Polly and Pebbles for the long haul to Dumfriesshire to Barry and Fran Culley who live near Whithorn. We haven't been this far south for some years since we had a fishing holiday near Newton Stewart some 20 odd years ago! Being in no real hurry we chose to go via Glasgow, Ayr, Girvan and Newton Stewart. Weather was superb, probably the best day of the year and it was nice to see part of Scotland we don't normally frequent. We arrived at Barry and Fran's about 2pm and off loaded the goats into a nicely prepared shed. Polly and Pebbles will enjoy it there, especially when the weather warms up. After a welcome cup of tea and homemade biscuits we set off taking the homeward route via Dumfries, Moffat, Glasgow and Stirling. All in all about 7 hours of driving but the weather and scenery made it all worthwhile.

It was another quiet week, although it looks like February will be busy with the need for a number of overseas trips to Europe and Middle East on the cards. All the animals are well although the horses are a bit restless because we had to leave them inside for a couple of days due to high winds and driving rain. The downside to living at 800 feet and



Middle Third paddocks in warmer times

perched on the edge of the Ochil Hills with spectacular views is that we are very exposed. Ginny, the oldest horse, hates the wind and gets extremely agitated if outside, to the point that catching her becomes almost a dangerous sport. Better to leave her inside with her pal, Isla - a much laid back Highland.

Saturday is spent tidying up and power washing the pens. A couple of days before I power wash, I wet the walls with a water and soap solution, and keep them wet, which softens the muck on the

walls and allows faster power washing because the muck flies off the walls. After the wash I then made sure the floor was clean. Next steps will be to white-wash the walls and, finally, disinfect the floor. Also, I use rubber cow mats in the pens – the floors are concrete and the mats provide a good insulation layer along with copious amounts of straw. Our farmer neighbour uses a straw bedding machine and his straw is chopped by the baler before forming the round bales. This straw makes fantastic beds for the goats.

26th - 31st January

A small amount of snow and slush on Sunday but it didn't last, turning to rain by 10am.

We can't believe that it is the last week of January – still wet and windy but no snow and none forecast. The flooding in Somerset is horrendous and no sign of respite. We feel so sorry for everyone affected.

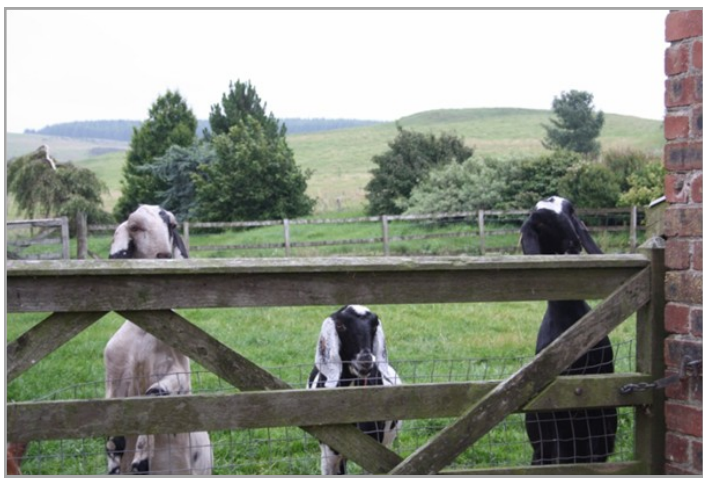
Susan finishes her final training this week and is in Brentwood from Monday until Thursday evening. We have a dog walker to walk Percy during the day and I take him out first thing in the morning, in the evening and last thing at night. He will be glad to get back to his nor-

mal routine! I am in Edinburgh during the day for the whole week so not any trouble looking after the animals. The horses too will enjoy getting back to the old routine – being thrown out at 6am does not suit them!

On Friday we travelled through to Glasgow to see Mother in hospital and then go to the Scotland A vs England Saxons at Scotstoun. It wasn't a great game but ended in a 16 all draw.

That was January in Middle Third! It was a quiet month with not a lot to report. We managed to get lots done inside but nothing outside due to the weather – February could be busy!

Bob & Susan Mason



The back paddock at Middle Third

BOER GOAT EMBRYO JOURNEY

Following a very interesting visit to Philip Halls Boer Goat Stud inaugural sale at Bristol in the summer of 2013, I decided that the way forward for my own Boer Goat Stud would be to access some of the Australian genetics that Philip was using, and the best way to achieve this quickly, would be to use embryo transfer. I already had a grade 8 doe (Boer goats are graded 1 to 9 in South Africa with 1-3 being culls, 4-5 being commercial animals, 6 being a mismarked 7-9 stud animal).

The plan was to super-ovulate my grade 8 doe and then use an Australian grade 9 buck – Macgregor's Damon, via laparoscopic artificial insemination. Innovis at Malvern were able to offer the veterinary expertise and I had already 10 cross bred British Saanan / Boer females that had kidded once that would make ideal recipients.

In September of 2013 the donor doe was dually delivered to Innovis at Malvern for her super ovulation treatments to start and the 10 recipients had hormone sponges implanted to ensure that they were ready to receive the fertilised embryos on the correct date. I was advised that not all the recipients would be usable on the day under laparoscopic inspection so provision was made to freeze any surplus embryos for future use. I have a nitrogen tank with semen straws in anyway so this accompanied the goats to Innovis on the 9th September.

The morning of the 3rd September saw all 10 recipients rampantly on heat at home, to the point where my own Boer Buck

had to be removed from the building for his own safety. The sponges had been removed 36 hours before and an injection of PMSG given to help with ovulation. To their disappointment the girls didn't see a male and gradually faded out of heat – the embryos would be harvested from the donor doe at 6 days after implantation and the recipients needed to be at exactly the same point of reproductive cycle when they received the fertilised embryos. Meanwhile at Innovis the donor doe was laparoscopic inseminated with the Australian semen.

On September 9th I took the 10 recipients down to Malvern, arriving in time to see the donor doe being sedated in preparation for embryo removal.

The vet carrying out the procedure harvested 10 embryos without difficulty and preparation was under way to sedate the recipients when the technician preparing the embryos broke the news that all 10 embryos were unfertilised! Disaster! Obviously something had gone wrong with the insemination process – most likely the timing! I am now standing in the rain with 10 synchronised recipients, 1 groggy donor and a vet waiting for instructions!

A quick phone call to the Bucks owner in Australia and we discovered that she had some frozen embryos already in the tank at Malvern from grade 8 does by grade 8 bucks. This somewhat saved the day, so plan B was instigated and we ended up with 8 does receiving an embryo each – 2 of the does were deemed not at the correct stage of cycle and weren't used.

BOER GOAT EMBRYO JOURNEY

Six weeks later and the scanner came to the farm to assess the results. We had managed to get 6 pregnancies from the 8 embryos which I am told is a spectacularly good percentage!

Due date 31st January 2014. Fingers crossed.

Two days later one of the pregnant recipients managed to jump up and get her leg stuck in a gate at 8pm on a Sunday



evening, her mates pushed her around and we found her with a badly shattered leg bone.

I must admit that I didn't think that the embryo would survive mums stress but the vet was duly called and plaster cast applied. Four weeks later the scanner came again and against all odds the foetus had survived and we still had 6 pregnancies!

Fast forwarding to Friday 31st January and 150 days after insemination, 144 days after Implantation and 3 does produce a male kid each at lunchtime without assistance, followed by another male on the Saturday, a female on the Sunday and then a final male kid on the Monday. Final score 5 males and 1 female. I would have preferred 3 males and 3 females but we haven't got as far as sexed semen yet with goats – but hopefully soon.....

Ian Johnson



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KIDS FOR KIDS

KIDS FOR KIDS - BACKGROUND:

There are currently 65 fully supported Kids for Kids villages which it continues to help - bringing the total number of people assisted so far, to over 300,000. Kids for Kids is able to continue to help children in Darfur because of its a partnership with local leaders who set up the Kids for Kids Steering Committee to implement the projects. This is proving not only to be cost effective but it is enabling the charity to respond to the changing needs of children who are living in extreme poverty made worse by ongoing violence and isolation. Kids for Kids keeps records of every beneficiary and item provided and trains the communities to be accountable to each other.

2001 - 2013

Population living in 344 villages and sub villages received the following training and services: Training: 65 Village Development Committees, 65 animal Loan Committees and animal Husbandry training to 5,081 people

170 Paravets

4 Community Health Workers

113 First Aid Workers

106 Midwives. 10,600 healthy babies have been born with the help of the Kids for Kids midwives.

28 Village Extension Agents

3,083 families have received 15,671 goats

14,544 goats rotated to a further 2,536 families so that the total number of families which have received direct help from Kids for Kids with goats alone, is over 9,500 - and every two

years the goat loan reaches out to help more, and more. 31,577 goats have been distributed and then their offspring rotated to further families

54,800 Trees planted - trees transform the environment and are the long term future of Darfur.

3 Tree Nurseries - where tree seedlings are nursed each year

5 Community Forests in remote villages, transforming the desert to an oasis of green where the fruit of trees, such as Nabuk, feed the children, even in years of drought.

5,697 blankets

5,697 mosquito nets

140 solar lanterns

Plus farming inputs - 2,639 local ploughs, seeds & fodder projects, water harvesting, farm tools
72 hand pumps

A further 62 repairs to hand pumps
Rehabilitation of Main Tree Nursery in El Fasher - including a submersible pump, the provision of shade for tree seedlings and the Kids for Kids Demonstration Garden with benches for recreation. This is the only green and shady area open to the public for families to picnic or students to study.

Construction of Midwives Training School for 40 midwives - El Fasher.

Construction of Abu Nahla community kindergarten - provision of school and recreational equipment

KIDS FOR KIDS

Construction Altgawa kindergarten latrines and provision of school equipment
Azargarfa veterinary centre equipment

FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Trustees have agreed a Business Plan for the next five years. Most project planning particularly in regions where it is so difficult to work, is for one year only

Adopting a minimum of five new communities every 12 months where all the Kids for Kids' projects will be introduced - including water, goat loans to as many families as possible, donkeys, blankets, mosquito nets, midwives, first aid workers, veterinary care and the training of the communities to run the projects themselves

Focus on water: working with WES a national NGO, and other water authorities. Investment in clean water is a priority, and saves many lives;

Extending the Welcome Home Package to more families from the camps, enabling them to settle permanently in villages, and to be integrated in the close-knit communities;

Providing a Kindergarten, Health Centre and Veterinary Centre in each of the Kids for Kids villages;

Women's Literacy Programme - training local literate village women to cascade train women in their own communities;

Providing health care through village midwives and first aid workers, and the construction of latrines

Supporting nomads

Good News from Darfur at last?

KIDS FOR KIDS opens its first KINDERGARTEN in North Darfur for 151 children

151 small children in Abu Nahla, a village 40kms from El Fasher, the regional capital of North Darfur, not only go to school every day, they go by school bus - carts pulled by strong donkeys! KIDS FOR KIDS, which has been transforming the lives of children living in remote villages in North Darfur since 2001, despite ongoing violence, has opened its first Kindergarten! A Festival of Music and Dance will be performed by local people at the Official Opening in January, when the biannual Rotation of Goats, (healthy kids are passed on from one family to another) will also take place. So far the Kids for Kids Goat Loan has helped 3,803 families who have received 15,671 goats - which have been passed on to a further 3,083 families every two years! The milk the goats provides to children is crucial, particularly now in Darfur where soaring inflation is causing grave concern as many families have not been able to feed their children protein in any form for many months. Many children face the risk of famine in 2014 according to UN WHO.

Patricia Parker MBE, Founder of Kids for Kids, said "I am so proud of what the people of Abu Nahla are achieving. When we discussed with them the plans for the school they decided they would make the bricks themselves to save us

KIDS FOR KIDS

money. As all our funds comes from ordinary people that means a lot. With the money saved we have been able to fund equipment and educational toys - the first toys these children will have seen - from Khartoum and El Fasher so that our Kids for Kids Kindergarten is going to set an example to other schools across the State."

Abu Nahla was one of the poorest villages in the region where 480 families struggled to survive, before it was adopted by Kids for Kids in 2010. There were no brick buildings and the only water source was from four hand pumps for 4,200 people. There was no health care and many children died each year from malnutrition or malnutrition related diseases. Now Abu Nahla is changing. There are two trained village midwives, two first aid workers, two paravets and a revolving veterinary drug fund available in the village, all provided by Kids for Kids. People have been taught how to run their own projects and the poorest 15% of families have been provided with 5 breeding nanny goats and a billy goat to share with two other families. Each has been given a donkey, blankets and mosquito nets. Trees are growing where once it was just sand. Abu Nahla was chosen to be the site of Kids for Kids first Kindergarten because of its success at running the projects.

Kids for Kids has also provided a veranda for extra classroom and play space, and trees for fruit and shade around the school. Because the village has sub villages that are up to 8 kms from the school there are two Kids for Kids Kindergarten 'school buses' to bring the smallest children to school each day - donkey carts pulled by strong crossbred donkeys. "The key to the success of Kids for Kids is that we listen to the people, and, because of my own experience gained in my many visits to Darfur, I understand the problems people face, so that we provide help that is appropriate to the region," said Patricia.

There are now 65 Kids for Kids villages in Darfur, with plans for adopting at least 5 more in 2014. "The urgent need is for us to provide as many goats as possible, and to make sure people have seeds to plant. They eat what they grow, yet this year many families, even in our villages, have been forced to eat the seed they should have saved for planting." said Patricia. "There is good news for the children of Abu Nahla today, but now we must help many more children before it is too late."

For further information on Kids for Kids, or to support its projects, please contact:

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Email: patricia@kidsforkids.org.uk
SKYPE: [patricia.parker](#)

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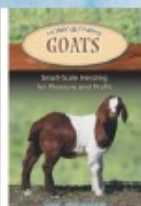


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