

# WSAG Newsletter

## March 2019



### AGM

**24th February 2019**

We had a fantastic turnout of 33 members—almost enough for a BAS quorum!! Many thanks to all of you for making the time to attend.

The business of the day was conducted quickly with Roger Mount welcoming everyone, especially our many new members. There have been a number of events held over the last year including a talk by Paul Vallely on Fibre Analysis and Feeding for Fibre, we held the first of our informal afternoon talks about fibre focusing on obtaining your fibre and we have had visits to farms, all of which have been well attended.

The finances are in good order with sufficient funds to cover the outlay for our two big shows and to subsidise other activities that we organise for our members.

Anne Cheston mentioned that the website has received a major make over and we are endeavouring to keep it up to date with activities and reports. It also contains a 'shop' that allows membership to be renewed online as well as booking in to other activities. It has been decided to make the membership a rolling 12 month membership so in future you will be emailed when your membership is due for renewal.

The events currently planned and potential additional events were discussed and a survey of interest will be conducted through the membership.

The Fibre Analysis Co-operative was reviewed and if anyone is interested in joining they should let organisers know as soon as possible.

Once the business concluded we all enjoyed an informative talk on Alpaca Health and Husbandry by local vets MacArthur, Barstow and Gibbs.

### Upcoming Events



Your committee are working hard to put together a program of events. These will be updated and publicised on the WSAG website and Facebook as soon as we have the details.

So far we have:

**30-Mar-19 All about the fibre—2 'Processing/Selling'**

1-4pm

Apperley Village Hall, Saw Pit Lane, GL19 4DP

**11-May-19 Mill Visit**

2pm

Clivewood Farm, Clive, Shrewsbury, SY4 5PR

**14-16-Jun-19 Royal Three Counties Show**

TBA **Talk: Pasture Management**

TBA **Sharing: Basic Husbandry**

TBA **Sharing: Basic Handling**

TBA **Social: BBQ**

If there is anything else you would like to see, please let us know.

### Fibre Analysis Co-operative

Don't forget to let us know if you want to join the fibre analysis co-operative and benefit from reduced rates (£5.30 plus £5.00 set up if less than 20 samples. £3.80 and no set up fee if more than 200 samples). We need 200 samples to qualify for those reduced rates so the more of us that participate the more likely we are to all benefit. We need to know if this will work by mid April and samples will be needed in early May.

## All about the Fibre Part 1



A group of us met for tea and cake and a chat about how to collect our fibre. With two shearers and a judge on hand we had plenty of expert input and the opportunity to talk and ask questions.

We talked about shearing, how to find shearers, what set up is needed, what equipment is needed and what you need to discuss with your shearer to help the day go smoothly.

We then discussed the best way to gather up the fleece from the shearing mat and what needs to be done in terms of skirting and storing your fleece. We also had a couple of fleeces to look at, both had the relevant fibre analysis so we could see what it all meant.

We also had a judging card for one of the fleeces so Jay could kindly explain how the fleece is judged and what the scores relate to.

All the notes from the afternoon are available in a file on the group Facebook page.



## All about the Fibre Part 2



We have now scheduled the second of our informal afternoons talking about fibre. This one will focus on what you can do with your fibre from selling it wholesale, selling it to crafters, having it processed to sell, using it yourself.

Whether you have all your fibre in bags piled in the loft /garage or you have had fibre processed to use or sell, or you use it/sell it yourself, come along and share your experiences of what has worked for you. Cost will be £5.

## Royal Three Counties Show (14-16th June)

We host the British Alpaca Society Show at the Royal Three Counties Show every June. To date this has always been a fleece and halter show. We get lots of visitors who come and look at the animals and the schools visit on the Friday. This year we decided that it would be a great opportunity to spread the word about alpaca fibre. So we are expanding our show to include a fibre crafts area. This will include a display of the craft competition entries and the local guild of spinners, weavers and dyers will also be present to demonstrate spinning and weaving with alpaca fibre. The craft competition is open to everyone provided they use British Alpaca fibre. There are various classes covering Spinning, Weaving, Knitting and Crochet and Wet and Needle Felting. There will be trophies for the winners of each section and results/photos will be published in the British Fibre Arts magazine as well as on the website. If you are a crafter or know a crafter please visit the website and download the application form for all the details. We will be calling for volunteers to help at the show nearer the time, so if you fancy a day out at the show please put it in your diary.



**West Shires Alpaca Group  
Craft Show**

Royal Three Counties Show, Malvern  
14-16th June 2019

- Classes**
- Handspun**
    - Pure (100%) Huacaya
    - Pure (100%) Suri
    - Art yarn (50% alpaca)
  - Crochet/Knit (Minimum 75% alpaca)**
    - Scarf
    - Shawl (shoulder wear greater than 30cm wide)
    - Jumper/Cardigan
    - Hat
    - Gloves
    - Socks
    - Toys
  - Hand Woven (Minimum 75% alpaca)**
    - Scarf
    - Shawl (shoulder wear greater than 30cm wide)
  - Hand Woven (Minimum 75% alpaca) cont.**
    - Sarment
    - Household Item (Cushion, Throw, Rug, Blanket, etc.)
  - Felted (100% alpaca excluding embellishments)**
    - Needlefelt
    - Wetfelt
- Entry Fees:**  
 1 class = £5.00  
 2 classes = £7.50  
 3 or more classes = £10.00
- Further details/entry form available at: [www.WSAG.org.uk](http://www.WSAG.org.uk)  
 Entries close 1st June 2019