

WSAG Newsletter

May 2019



Royal Three Counties Show

14th—16th June 2019



It's only a few weeks now until the Royal Three Counties Show. We are busy organising the Alpaca Show to make sure we have everything we need for the weekend. It looks as if we will have well over 100 Huacaya and nearly 100 Suri competing for the Championships. There is also a fleece competition and for the first time this year we have a craft competition and demonstrations of spinning and weaving.

While the committee are happy making sure we have made all the preparations we need before the event, we really need your help setting up for the show, stewarding during the show and packing everything up once all the competitors have left. Don't worry, you don't need to be there all weekend but if you could spare half a day we would be very grateful for your help. You will also get the chance to see some fantastic animals and talk to their owners as well as getting free parking and entry into the show. If you are interested in helping please let us know. We will need help to set up the tent on Thursday 13th June, stewards for the fleece judging and craft show on Friday 14th June, stewards for the halter shows on Saturday and Sunday 15th & 16th June and help to pack up on 16th June.

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:

- 9-Jun-19 **BBQ** (following judging of craft show)
5pm
Apple Cross, Bannals Lane, Stoke Bliss, WR15 8RZ
- 14-16-Jun-19 **Royal Three Counties Show**
- August **Sharing: Basic Handling**
- September **Sharing: Basic Husbandry**
- October **Talk: Pasture management**
- 2020 **Sharing: Making Breeding Decisions**
- 2020 **Mock Show**

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

BBQ

9-Jun-19

The judging for the alpaca craft show for the Royal Three Counties will take

place at Apple Cross, WR15 8RZ on Sunday 9th June. If you would like to come along and see the results of the judging or just want to come and socialise with other members over a 'sausage' you would be very welcome. The BBQ will be ready to cook from 5pm. Please let us know if you plan to come so we can cater appropriately.



All About the Fibre—Part 2

30th March 2019

A group of 20 of us spent a very informative afternoon discussing how we could make the most of our fleece. We talked a little about knowing the quality of our fleece and how that



influences our choices in what you do with it. The options for selling fleece wholesale were discussed along with the benefits and disadvantages of this method. We also talked about selling to 'crafters' and how it was important to be clear what the quality and therefore



the purpose of the fleece was likely to be to ensure return custom. There were examples of what other members had done with their fleece and how they had presented it for sale. We were also lucky to have Caroline Oakes with us, who

has just set up 'The Mill at Clivewood' and helped us understand what fleece is best to process, how to prepare the fleece, how the mill works and the kind of products they produce.



BAS Welfare

For those of you that don't know, two of our members help on the BAS Welfare Committee which is chaired by Doug Steen. Janet says 'we get involved in a wide range of communications, from helping to find companion alpacas, taking calls from shearers who are concerned about alpacas they have sheared, prospective alpaca owners, new owners that have not had back up from their seller etc.'

The BAS has a code of conduct for the sale of alpacas on their website: <http://www.bas-uk.com/alpacapedia/bas-code-conduct-sale-alpacas> which can be reached from a link on the front page 'Buyers Guide' and a link in the second paragraph 'Code of Conduct for Sale'. It is worth a read whether buying or selling to ensure the best for alpacas.

If you have any concerns then you can contact Sue Loach (01299 250248/07930 578083) or Janet Ireland (01939 262827/07840 856874)

The Mill at Clivewood

11th May 2019

We headed up to the north of region to visit 'The Mill at Clivewood' courtesy of Ian and Caroline Oakes. It was a very informative afternoon with tours of the mill and information about how the fibre is handled through the milling process. Caroline and Becci are very focused



on assessing the fleece and helping customers to make

the best of their fleece depending on the quality. We had a quick peek at Caroline's weaving studio where she creates some of her wonderful items and drooled at her collection of floor looms. We also had a wander around the paddocks to see the providers of her fleece. And of course there was the usual conversations and socialising over tea, cake and sandwiches. Many thanks to Ian and Caroline for their hospitality and a very informative and pleasant afternoon.

