

WSAG Newsletter

March 2019



AGM 2020

The AGM was well supported with many of you attending. A light lunch was enjoyed by all followed by the formal part of the afternoon. Roger gave us a brief summary of a very successful year.



We have two changes to the committee this year—Pauline Key has resigned from the committee, Roger thanked her for her time and help while on the committee. Liz Welch was voted on to the committee—Liz introduces herself later in this newsletter.



After the formal business of the AGM was concluded Sam Lane of Cotswold Seeds talked us through getting the best from our pastures. The

slides from the talk are available in the files section of the group Facebook page.

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. £3.60 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.

Upcoming Events



We were hoping to bring you a calendar of events for the next few months but I am sure you can appreciate that in the current emergency we do not feel it is appropriate to

schedule any events. The Royal Three Counties Show has now been cancelled. But we hope to go ahead with the fleece show and craft show 'behind closed doors' provided we are not in a complete lockdown situation!

As soon as restrictions are lifted we will get busy organising events for you. In the meantime we hope you keep well and enjoy your alpacas!

Emergency Help

It looks as if we are going to experience a very uncertain and difficult period of time. Knowing what a close knit and helpful group alpaca owners are, we are sure there will be plenty of help available if you need it.

So, if you are experiencing any difficulties due to illness, lack of supplies or support then please do contact the group using info@wsag.org.uk. We will then put out a request for help on your behalf to others in your area.

We hope you and your animals stay safe and well in this very uncertain time and if there is anything we can do to help then please let us know.

December Social



Early December seems such a long way away now and in much calmer and more normal times. But we had a really good turnout of members for the December Social at the Manor Arms in Abberley. It was an excellent evening with good food, drink and company and our thanks go to Iain and Anne for organising it. It was also an excellent opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their help in making our shows such a success during the year.



Breeding Decisions



A small group of us met to learn more about how to make the best breeding choices for our animals. Jay took us through the theory and talked about the things to consider when making your decisions such as fibre quality, colour, confirmation, temperament, traits passed on by the sire and dam etc. Roger then introduced us to three of his stud males talking about their attributes, then moved on to groups of cria's sired by those studs and how the stud had influenced the attributes of the cria and where the female's attributes had influenced the outcome. We learnt that some studs improve cria from most dams and are known as improvers while others sire very good cria from good dams but don't particularly improve cria from less good dams. But the overriding message was to choose your breeder carefully and use their wealth of knowledge about their studs ability to influence his offspring.



Liz Welch

Hi all, my name is Liz and I was elected to join the WSAG committee at the AGM in February, the following is just a little bit about me and my Alpacas.

My husband and I live near Ledbury on a small farm, my Dad has lived here all of his life due to some health issues the ground had been left and was looking rather unloved and overgrown. After a fair bit of head scratching and tutting over what to do with the land we started looking at suitable animals to maintain the 4 usable acres. Kev and I spent a long time looking into various options, Angora goats were talked about a lot. When it came to it they were just not quite right for what we needed. We then started talking to people about Camelids, visited a Llama farm (too big for me) then moved to Alpacas. The rest is history, within 4 weeks 4 Alpacas had been delivered, 2 weeks later the beast from the east hit and it was a baptism of fire! From my own experience I would now always recommend a handling course before deciding to take on any animal. Through the online community we met up with Jay and Hillary, have done a handling course and joined this group.



We are lucky to have enough space for Alpacas, Chickens and Bagot Goats. Kev's plan for the animals was always land management, the Alpacas do a fantastic job of keeping the grass down and the goats tidy up all of the brambles, so he is happy. Mine was much more towards the craft side, I have learnt to felt, had a go at dyeing and have spinning, crochet and weaving on my list of things to learn.

I look forward to meeting those of you that I have not yet met and catching up with those that I have

Liz x

