

## CLUB EVENTS HELD EARLIER IN THE YEAR

### Ram Inspection at Exeter Market (21st June 2019)

The inspection started early this year (7 am) as there was the early breeding sheep sale starting at 10 am. This meant that many of us had to be up by 4 am or even earlier. After our 'event' Arfon and Sian were going to other inspections at Mike Miller's farm in Dorset and from there to Derek Bond's farm in Sussex.

The number of rams entered for inspection over the whole country is down by 40%, a response (presumably) to the poor ram sales in 2018.

At Exeter we had 31 entries and ALL PASSED. This has never happened before. Arfon mentioned that the amount of brown hairs seen over the whole country so far is at an all time low and he specifically picked out the improvement in pasterns seen at Exeter...normally the main cause of failure here.

This is the first year that DNA samples have been taken from shearling rams. A high % (18 out of 31) of rams were forward for this. The information that breeders will get back will cover scrapie genotype, prolificacy genes (if present) and muscling status, information that should be useful for the breeder and the purchaser.

### NSA Sheep South West – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

This was a really successful event. Bill and Suzanne Harper brought shearling ewes, ewes and pure-bred twins and one of their stock rams for the Society stand. Many thanks to them for putting on such an excellent display. The Lleyn Sheep Society won first prize in the stand competition, which Heather was really pleased! All day long we had a succession of visitors interested in our breed. Some were newcomers to sheep but breeders of other types of sheep were also considering trying out some Lleyn.

### Ram Workshop held at Home Leigh Farm (Sunday 5th May 2019)



After a great pub lunch nearby, we met up at Home Leigh for an interactive Ram Workshop. This was really 'hands on'. Richard Turner demonstrated (on one of his long-suffering stock rams, aided and abetted by Jack) what to look for when selecting ram lambs to rear; how to look after ram lambs as they develop into shearlings to sell the following year; and 'how the economics work out'. He also covered 'how to choose a stock ram wisely to produce a 'saleable product'. Richard gave members every opportunity to ask questions and make comments. It was a



very successful workshop, which made people think. Everyone must have left feeling that they had learned something.

Afterwards Janet and the family provided a lovely tea for everyone in their sunny garden. A very relaxing end to proceedings. Thanks to all the family for hosting such an enjoyable event.





Interactive Forum Discussions, Tedburn St Mary, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

28 Club members came to Tedburn St Mary Village Hall. The forum was intended to be very interational and so it proved to be. Thank you to the following: Bill Harper, George Cullimore, John Adams & Sue Redwood for covering the discussion. Five main topics were covered:

- (i) Nutrition: Forage Analysis, feeding ewes pre & post Lambing, Feeding Rams / Ram lambs / Stores.
- (ii) Worm Resilience news
- (iii) LLEYN GOLD and what it can do for your flock.
- (iv) Benchmarking 2018 results
- (v) On farm Lamb post mortem

**In summary**, this was a really successful day with everyone participating in the discussion, enjoying the social chat and an excellent lunch. Special thanks go to Cathy, Alison and Gill for the catering.