



# Devon Support Group Spring 2006



Tamworth sows and Golden Guernsey goats



Head of the Farmyard ...



Photos take at North Down Farm at Yeoford near Crediton, venue for a group visit

10.30 Sunday 11th June 2006.

The visit is part of the Manx Loghtan Sheep Breeders Group annual workshop weekend and is open to all.

Admission free to RBST & MLSBG members, special concession £2.25 others. Lunches available (book in advance). See inside for more details.



White Park cattle, emblem of the RBST



Soay ewe and lambs in the orchard ... refreshments in the Courtyard



# RBST Devon Support Group

## Contact details:

**Chairman:** Peter Hayford  
Bearscombe Farm, Diptford  
Totnes TQ9 7JY  
01548 821 212

**Treasurer:** Nikki Morgan  
Butler's Lodge, Dry Lane  
Christow, Exeter EX6 7PE  
01647 253 130  
nikki@nikkimorgan.co.uk

**Secretary:** Liffy Robinson  
Oldaway House,  
West Alvington  
Kingsbridge TQ7 3BQ  
01548 560 342  
liffy.east-robinson@virgin.net

**Editor:** Peter Bates  
Partridge Farm  
Templeton  
Tiverton EX16 8BN  
01884 235 930  
pew@lightninginternet.com

**Copy** for the next issue of the newsletter to be sent to the Editor by **1st July 2006**

**Contributors** to the newsletter are free to express their own views which are not necessarily those of the RBST

**Produced** quarterly by the RBST Devon Support Group  
membership £6.00 per household per year, payable in January

**Special request:** if anyone has photographs appropriate for the Devon Ark, please pass them on to the Secretary or Acting Editor

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust was founded in 1973 and is a registered charity formed to prevent the further extinction of British breeds of farm livestock. At least 20 different breeds have been lost between 1900 and 1973. Since the Trust was formed, no other breed has been lost, although numbers in some remain critically low. The Devon Support Group exists to further the work of the Trust.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust  
Stoneleigh Park, Nr Kenilworth  
Warwickshire CV8 2LG  
Tel 024 7669 6551 Fax 024 7669 6706  
email enquiries@rbst.org.uk www.rbst.org.uk  
Patron: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB  
President: Rt Hon The Lord Carter  
Reg charity no 269 442

## From the Chairman

Here we are again at the start of another show season. I look forward to seeing all our old friends and perhaps even a few new ones who haven't been out to lend a hand on the stand. It's a great shop window for the Trust and also usually a good day out for all concerned, so do come and give it a try. We start at the Devon County Show - see show dates list elsewhere in the newsletter.

Also we hope to get to the Devon Traditional Breed Centre at Crediton during the Summer. They assure us that all will be well this year, following last year's disappointment when they were not able to accommodate us. They will have pigs and sheep as well as a fine selection of poultry, so it should be an interesting event.

This morning the poultry schedule for the Devon County show arrived. It is good to know that DEFRA will allow us to have a poultry show on a grass site, as there was some doubt about it for a while. Apparently the problems of disinfecting the grass have been resolved.

So, I wish you all a disease-free Summer and look forward to meeting as many as possible.

**Peter Hayford**  
Bearscombe Farm,  
Diptford,  
Totnes TQ9 7JY  
01548 821 212

### Subscription Renewals for 2006 - £6

Subs for 2006 are due.  
Please use the form in this  
newsletter to renew your  
membership. Cheques  
payable to RBST Devon  
Support Group please.  
The majority of members  
have not yet renewed, so if in  
doubt please do - thank you!

### Membership List

The list for 2006 is enclosed.  
Please send your email  
details/any amendments to  
Nikki Morgan at  
**nikki@nikkimorgan.co.uk**  
(address opposite)

### Devon Support Group Website

**[www.rbst.org.uk/devon](http://www.rbst.org.uk/devon)**  
**[www.devon.rbst.org.uk](http://www.devon.rbst.org.uk)**

Richard Barker has set up  
the new website for the  
group and welcomes  
comments, photographs and  
text for the website.

**[richard@fowlescombe.com](mailto:richard@fowlescombe.com)**  
**01548 821 000**

**Devon County Show  
18-20th May 2006**

RBST Devon Support Group tent needs your help!  
If you can do a **2 hour shift staffing the tent** (free tickets provided), please contact Mark Robinson on 01548 560 342

If you have **suitable livestock to lend** for the display ie rare breed cow & calf, mare & foal, pig with litter, please contact Peter Hayford on 01548 821 212

A large part of the attraction of the display in the tent is **rare breeds products supplied by members** (skins, fleece, yarn, throws etc). These can be for display only or for sale, with 10% of the sale price donated to the RBST. Please contact Liffy Robinson if you have items you can offer - see contact details inside front cover

**Suggestion:**

At the AGM members agreed on the value of our presence at the Show. However, it costs the group over £300.00 to hire the tent and cover expenses. The committee is actively seeking sponsorship, but if members would like to contribute, why not send £10 when renewing your subscription, to include a £4 donation to the RBST tent at the Devon County Show. Of course, larger donations would be most welcome!  
(donations will be acknowledged in publicity on the stand)

**Show dates for 2006**

RBST will be at these shows:

**Mid Devon** - Sat 22 July  
contact Norma Sanders  
01884 881 222 or

ewenique@eclipse.co.uk

**Totnes** - Thurs 27 July

**Honiton** - Thurs 3 August

**Kingsbridge** - Sat 2 Sept

contact Peter Hayford  
01548 821 212

**Other show dates  
for your diaries:**

*(not officially attended  
by the Support Group)*

Yealmpton - 26th July

North Devon - 2nd August

Okehampton - 10th August

Chagford - 17th August

Christow - 19th August

Widcombe Fair -  
12th September

**Welcome to new members**

We are delighted to welcome those who have recently joined the group:

## **The Summer Show Initiative**

The SSI is a project that aims to offer those people, young and old alike, who are involved in the agricultural industry a chance to learn the skills needed to enable them to support and take an active role in exhibiting cattle (and later sheep and pigs) at Agricultural Shows in their locality. For some time now, summer shows have found that the numbers of cattle entries have dropped, a situation which is causing concern to show organisers and members of the rural community who are determined to safeguard traditional skills and events so important to the fabric of the countryside. Workshops are arranged at a farm belonging to one of the trainees. The duration of each workshop is about three to four hours and can be accommodated on a Sunday if that is easier for the participants; the cost is £10 per person and this covers refreshments and rope for cattle halter making. Full insurance cover is included. Funding has been achieved under the VTS scheme run by South West Colleges, allowing the participants to attend at little cost to themselves. Leading the training for the cattle side of things is Colin Hutchings from Brompton Regis, Somerset, a senior cattle judge who has been involved with all types of showing for in excess of 50 years!

The training covers:

Selection of stock, grading, good and bad points of fatstock production, nutrition and feeding for showing, halter training/ making, transport, grooming/clipping, breed standards, ring craft, health and safety.

The training scheme was started in 2004 and to date, over 200 trainees have

received their certificates. We are supported by various shows and a number have special classes for those participants who wish to take the plunge! Devon County, in particular have been very helpful and are sponsoring prizes in these classes at the 2006 show. Barry Butler is the instigator and organizer behind the initiative and he is presenting each participant with a certificate of achievement. As Health and Safety rules are becoming much tighter at shows, it is likely that proof of competence will be required by some shows to confirm to the organizers that the exhibitor, who may not have shown before, has some formal training behind them. The HSE has given its backing to the scheme and has validated the certification.

From a RBST perspective, it would be sensible to concentrate on cattle at the present time. Sheep (and pigs) are on the drawing board and Barry will contact us further about these in the near future. The idea is to ask a participant to host a workshop. There need to be between 12 and 15 trainees at each session, with two or three halter trained cattle to work on. So if anyone has two or three rare breed cattle then contact both Richard and Barry. Subsequently we will be looking for sites for rare breed pigs and sheep.

**Anyone wishing to learn more about the Initiative, please contact Barry Butler at [barryr.butler@virgin.net](mailto:barryr.butler@virgin.net) or telephone 01288 321315.**

## Sheep Workshop

9th-11th June

at the  
Sheldon Centre,  
Dunsford, Exeter  
EX6 7LE

Organised on  
behalf of the  
Manx Loghtan  
Sheep Breeders' Group by Hillary  
Hanson, with all sheep enthusiasts  
very welcome.



**Friday 9th** - dinner at a local pub  
for those travelling from a distance  
(and the locally hungry!)

**Saturday 10th:**

**10 am to lunch (included)**

Sheep workshop focussing on fleece  
variety, quality, marketing etc.  
Shearing by Sam Tallowin, fleece  
assessments by Sue Blacker of the  
Natural Fibre Company and fleece  
expert Barbara Willis. There will be  
a variety of fleeces from different  
breeds to compare.

NFC processes wool from small  
flocks (including organic and  
coloured) to produce knitting yarn,  
blankets, throws and fabric.

**3 pm Visit** to Richard and Barbara  
Barker's Fowlescombe flocks of  
Manx Loghtan and Hebridean sheep  
near Ugborough. Butchery  
demonstration with special regard to  
cutting primitive sheep carcasses.  
Farm walk and cream tea.

**7.30 for 8.00 pm Dinner** at the  
Sheldon Centre featuring rare breed  
meats (of course!)

**Sunday 11th 10.30 am and lunch**

Visit North Down Farm at Yeoford,  
hosted by Howard and Alison Payton.  
North Down is a rare breed farm  
park with several sheep breeds  
including Manx Loghtan, North  
Ronaldsay, Soay and Welsh Black.  
There are also White Park cattle,  
Tamworth Pigs, Golden Guernsey  
goats, donkeys and poultry. Add to  
this an amazing and fascinating  
collection of old farm machinery and  
memorabilia and you have an  
interesting and delightful place to  
visit. Photos on the front cover taken  
on a visit in 2005. Children welcome.

You are welcome to come for all or  
any part of the workshop weekend.  
We need to know who's coming for  
catering purposes, so please book in  
advance by contacting Hillary  
Hanson on 01647 253 903 or email  
hillary@sheldon.uk.com  
(travel directions will be provided  
when you book as Sheldon is not easy  
to find!)

### Suggested contributions:

Sat am	£7.50 includes lunch
Sat pm	£5.00 includes tea
Sat dinner	£15.00 (+ bar available)
Sunday	free to RBST/MLSBG members, £2.25 to others + cost of lunch (which must be booked ahead)

Cheques payable to Manx Loghtan  
Sheep Breeders' Group to Hillary  
please (or in the bucket on the day).

*Please don't bring dogs with you to the  
morning workshop - Sheldon has a "no  
visiting dogs" rule, not even in the car as  
there is no shaded parking.*

## Forthcoming Events

**Sunday 25th June**

**Wiltshire Support Group Rare Breeds Awareness Day**

Norwood Farm Park, Bath Road, Norton St Philip, Bath BA2 7LP

01373 834 356

[info@norwoodfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@norwoodfarm.co.uk)

[www.norwoodfarm.co.uk](http://www.norwoodfarm.co.uk)

**Friday 30th June at 4.30 pm**

**Devon Traditional Breeds Centre**

(A377 on outskirts of Crediton towards Exeter)

[www.dtbcentre.co.uk](http://www.dtbcentre.co.uk)

Tour of rare & traditional poultry, pigs and sheep followed by  
cream tea. £3.95 per person

Visit organiser: Peter Hayford, 01548 821 212

**Friday 28th July**

**Farm visit to Wallaces Farm near Tiverton**

Farm walk, talk and light refreshments. Red deer, Bison and  
Highland Cattle. Farm shop. Hill Farm, Hemyock, Tiverton

£8.00 per person (includes refreshments)

[www.welcometowallaces.com](http://www.welcometowallaces.com)

Details for visit organiser: Norma Sanders, 01884 881 222

[ewenique@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:ewenique@eclipse.co.uk)

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September

Melton Mowbray Market, Leicestershire

**Traditional native breeds national show and sale**

including Craft Competition (8th) with classes for natural and dyed  
wool, hand and commercially spun or woven, skins, horn etc.

contact Susan Lawrence, 01588 650407/[alexlawrence@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:alexlawrence@ukonline.co.uk)

**Friday 16th September at 2 pm  
Horse-drawn Barge Trip**

On the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton. The trip, on one of only 5 horse-drawn barges left in the UK, lasts 2½ hours and leaves from Tiverton at 2 pm. A commentary is included and there is a licensed bar and refreshments available on board.

The cost is £8.85 per person.

Visit organiser: Pip Shail, 01803 864 089  
email [mikeandpip@onetel.com](mailto:mikeandpip@onetel.com) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**RBST Devon Support Group  
Membership £6.00 per household**

***Please use this form to renew your membership, and send it to  
Nikki Morgan, Butler's Lodge, Dry Lane, Christow, Exeter EX6 7PE***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please renew my/our membership of the Devon Support Group.  
(£6.00 per household per year - cheque enclosed payable to RBST  
Devon Support Group)

**Do you keep any rare breed animals and if so which breeds:**

**May we contact you about helping or lending livestock at shows:**

*The Support Group holds members' details on a computer, and a membership list is produced. Please inform us in writing*

*a) if you do not wish us to keep your information on the computer*

*b) if you do not wish to be included in the membership list when circulated -  
thank you.*



## Devon Support Group AGM

Over 20 members met at the Cowick Barton Inn, Exeter, in January for the group AGM. With the exception of Judy Percival who had resigned due to family commitments, the 2005 Committee were re-elected en bloc for 2006. Liffy Robinson and Nikki Morgan continue as secretary and treasurer respectively. The Chairman thanked the officers and Committee members for their hard work and support during 2005, and members for their help at shows and events. He also thanked Judy for her excellent contribution in producing the newsletter, and invited offers for someone to step in and take on the role, stressing the importance of the newsletter as a means of communicating with the members.

Bernard Stamp raised the issue of new rules concerning pre-movement TB testing, and the difficulties this would raise for owners of rare breed cattle, many of whom keep only a few animals. It was agreed that the committee would write to DEFRA expressing the concern of the group.

Members agreed to an increase in the subscription to £6.00 per household to help towards the increased costs of producing the newsletter in colour.

The meeting expressed affirmation of the group presence at the Devon County Show, which was felt to be an important showcase for the RBST and the breeds we support. Sponsorship for the tent (@ £300) would have to be found from funds and donations.

After the business of the meeting, David Ramsden gave an illustrated presentation on the work of the Barn Owl Trust, and answered questions from members. Barn owls are less scarce in Devon than elsewhere in the country, but even here are threatened by the loss of their preferred habitats. They have very specific dietary requirements - field voles being highly favoured - which only prevail in the appropriate habitats. David was thanked for his interesting and informative talk and the beautiful illustrations used, and the meeting closed with the traditional raffle, proceeds of which paid the expenses of the evening.



## Good News!

*The group now has a new Newsletter Editor - Peter Bates*

Peter has kindly stepped in to take over editing the Devon Ark. Please encourage him by sending in news, photos, articles, information and adverts. His contact details are:

Peter Bates  
Partridge Farm  
Templeton  
Tiverton EX16 8BN  
telephone and fax - 01884 235 930  
email - [pew@lightninginternet.com](mailto:pew@lightninginternet.com)

### History of the Devon Support Group

Richard Barker has been delving into the archives of the Group ... The inaugural meeting was held in 1982 at Parke Rare Breeds Farm, Bovey Tracey, when Geoffrey Cloke, a Council member, came to talk and drum up enthusiasm. This focus and publicity brought together a number of supporters. A committee was formed and the Support Group became a reality. At the first Committee meeting, Tim Ash took the chair. Jo Everett, who with her husband Rupert bred GOS, became the first secretary. Sadly for the group, they soon moved out of the area. Dave Benton nobly became the founder Treasurer, a job which is usually unwanted by everyone. Other founder Committee members included Julian Greatorax and Gethin Rees.

In the next year or two, the Committee included; Noel Tallowin; Hugh and Margaret Prior; Kate Templeton; Robin Phillips; Ron and Anne Rolls. When the Everetts moved away, Anna Klinkenberg took over for a stint as secretary, closely followed by Margaret Prior. Margaret stayed, with Hugh taking over when Dave gave up as Treasurer, for the remainder of the early years. They bore the brunt of the work in setting up and running the group's sales. They had been inveigled into Manx sheep, and the group, by Noel Tallowin, a great enthusiast. Noel actually died suddenly while they were dipping their sheep, and was greatly missed.

The first sale was at Newton Abbot Market, but Headquarters were not happy about the commercial connection. A leap of faith was made, and the sale was moved to the old County Showground at Whipton. This was a good, central venue, with easy parking; the trade off was having

### **Small Ads Page**

*Please send advertisements to the Acting Editor with £2.00 per issue or £6 for 4 issues (cheques payable to RBST Devon Support Group). Members please note that the RBST takes no responsibility for goods or services in these columns and any agreement entered into as a result of such adverts is entirely at your own risk. The Committee reserves the right to refuse an advertisement.*

### **Dun Dexter Bull for hire**

medium leg, quiet & easy

### **Registered Dartmoor Ponies**

all ages for sale from £500  
or on loan for conservation  
grazing schemes

### **Jacob x Texel Lamb & Dexter Beef**

for sale, naturally reared on a  
Dartmoor Hill farm

**Elizabeth Newbolt-Young**  
**01364 621 381**

to build each and every pen. At the end of the set-up day, tired gangs took fish and chips home, before preparing their own stock. These days were not helped by occasional overnight vendors complaining on arrival that pens were not entirely organised. The definition of 'Rare Breeds' was a little more relaxed then, in the interest of creating trade, and one unfortunate vendor was last seen trying to get an ornamental pheasant down from the roof-space. Fortunately, the good times are the ones best remembered; after the sale, or 'taking the stand' to local shows, the party often repaired to a local pub for supper.

*... to be continued*

### **New rules for animal transport Jan 2007**

New rules to improve animal welfare in transport come into effect in January 2007, applying to those who transport their own animals to market as well as hauliers. Anyone transporting animals over 65km will need authorisation from the State Veterinary Service. Drivers and attendants will need a certificate of competency by January 2008. For journeys of over 8 hours, vehicles will have to be inspected and approved. More information on [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport)

### **Trailer nightmares?**

If reversing your trailer brings you out in a muck sweat, try a towing course at the Devon Driver Centre at Westpoint. Individual tuition in their vehicles or your own builds confidence and provides lots of practice. From basic techniques to more advanced manoeuvring, from one hour to a full day. For more details, fees etc, telephone 01392 444 773  
*(Yes, I have been on a course but I'd still rather you didn't watch me next time I'm reversing!)*

## Fowlescombe Manx Loghtan and Hebridean Livestock



### Breeding Stock

We started with 10 Manx ewes and now have 200 pedigree rare breed sheep

We supply pedigree rare breed starter flocks in the South west  
Even to churchyards

Ring Barbara 01548 821000  
[www.fowlescombe.com](http://www.fowlescombe.com)

### Boxed Lamb

Well hung and expertly prepared

**Rare Breed**  
– whole £12

**Award winning**  
– eight of car

Please ring Steve  
[www.thedevonm](http://www.thedevonm)



***Hatching Eggs,  
Chicks & Growers***

***FOR SALE***

*Breeds kept include:*

**Aracunas** – Tailed and Rumpless, **Barbu D'Anver** bantams,  
**Barnevelders**, **Buff Orpingtons**, **Buff Rocks**, **Cream Legbars**, **Croad Langshans** – Black, White and bantam, **Derbyshire Redcaps**, **Dorkings**  
– Silver grey, Red & White, Silver grey bantams, **Dutch** bantams,  
**Fayoumis**, **Friesins**, **Jersey Giants**, **Ladenvelders** – large & bantam,  
**Marans**, **Norfolk Greys**, **North Holland Blues**, **Old English Pheasant Fowl**, **Rhode Bars**, **Rhode Island Red**, **Scots Dumpies** – large & bantams, **Silkies**, **Sulmtaler**, **Sultans**, **Sumatra Game**, **Sussex** – Light, Buff, Speckled & White, **Transylvanian Naked Necks**, **Welsummers**, **White Leghorns** – large & bantam, **Wyandottes** – Silver Laced & Barred

***ALSO DUCKS, TURKEYS AND GEESE***

*I can usually pass on contacts for birds not available and am happy to give any help I can, so give me a ring if you want any help with traditional poultry*

***Peter Hayford - 01548 821 212***