



# Devon Support Group Winter 2005/6



Group visit to the Sharpham Vinyard in September

... from this to these ...



via a tour of the vines and explanation of the pruning and cultural techniques and to



what we had all been looking forward to, tasting the different wines in the winery! We also enjoyed a walk beside the Dart in beautiful sunshine. *Thanks to Pip Shail for organising the visit and Mike for the photos.*







## RBST Devon Support Group

### Contact details:

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**Editor:** During vacancy  
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01647 523 903  
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**Copy** for the next issue of the newsletter to be  
sent to the Acting Editor by 1st March 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 £5.00 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  
National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
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: The Lord Illiffe  
Reg charity no 269 442



### **From the Chairman**

Here we are once again at the end of the year, reflecting on our efforts over the Summer.

We have had very good support at all the shows this year, with plenty of members helping to run the stands and an excellent array of stock for the public to admire and be attracted to our displays. I'd like to thank everybody who has given their time and efforts and say that it has been much appreciated.

We also had a good year with merchandise sales, in that we sold almost everything we had available. It would have been better still if we had more to sell, but the supply chain didn't work too well this year. We must plan ahead better for the coming year. It was good also to have the grand display of members' goods, which caused much interest and, I hope, provided a satisfactory outlet for the people concerned.

Unfortunately, we didn't make it to the Devon Traditional Breeds Centre at Crediton as they were unable to have us on the appointed day. I hope we will be able to try again next year.

My thanks to Pip Shail for organising a good trip to Sharpham Vineyard which was interesting and also well attended, which is nice to be able to say!

I am sorry that Judy Percival has decided that, due to family commitments, she has to give up being editor of the Devon Ark. I feel that a good Newsletter is the backbone of all we do. After all, if people don't know what is going on they cannot take part in activities. We have been so lucky with Judy for the last few years, and she will be much missed.

Hillary has kindly agreed to get out this edition, but we shall need a new editor in 2006. So if anybody would like to try their hand at editing, do please let somebody on the Committee know. There will be a lot of support from the Committee.

I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing lots of you at the AGM and events in 2006.

**Peter Hayford,  
Chairman  
01548 821 212**



### **Future Events**

## **Devon Support Group AGM**

Monday 23rd January 2006

Cowick Barton Inn, Exeter

7.30 for 8 pm

The agenda will include a proposal to increase the annual membership subscription to £6.00 per household to cover increased costs of producing the Devon Ark.

After the brief formal meeting, our Guest Speaker will be

**David Ramsden from the Barn Owl Trust.**



David will give an illustrated talk on Barn Owls, their decline, the effects of changing farming practice, conservation measures, the environment necessary for Barn Owls to thrive, and the work of the Barn Owl Trust. David is an enthusiastic, entertaining and informative speaker and will be happy to answer questions. [www.barnowltrust.org.uk](http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk)

Food is available at the pub, and a number of members usually gather to eat before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

*There will be a RAFFLE to help towards expenses of the evening.  
Contributions for prizes appreciated.*

### **From the Editor, Judy Percival**

I am resigning from the Devon Support Group Committee and as Newsletter editor from the AGM in January 2006. It has been a most enjoyable experience working with the Committee. The production of the Newsletter has been made easy by their support and by members sending photographs, articles, recipes and advertisements. Please keep all the foregoing coming to help the new Editor, for which there is now a vacancy. If anyone would like to take this on please contact Peter Hayford (details inside front cover).

### **Welcome to new members**

We are delighted to welcome those who have recently joined the group: Dawn Crawford, Elizabeth Faunce-Brown, Philip Milton, Jane Ross, Janet Snoxall and Marion Winter



## Visit to Sharpham Vineyard

On a bright, breezy Friday afternoon 14 members of the Devon Support Group assembled at Sharpham Vineyard for a tour and wine tasting, hosted by our guide for the day, Tom.

Our first stop was to view Sharpham House itself, built in 1770 by Sir Robert Taylor, where Tom told us some of the history of the Sharpham Trust which owns the 500 acre estate overlooking the banks of the river Dart. Never one to miss the opportunity of making an entrance it was at this point that we were joined by the remainder of our party - Chairman Peter Hayford and his wife Jacky! Touring the vineyard, Tom took us through the various techniques for pruning and training the vine, mentioning the cool climate grape varieties grown here such as Madeleine Angevine, Kemling and Pinot Noir. The tour concluded with a riverside walk through the rest of the estate, which supports an organic dairy herd of Jersey cows who provide the milk for the award-winning Sharpham cheeses. Back at the Winery we were supplied with glasses for the wine-tasting which followed Tom's explanation of the winemaking process. Sharpham wines, white, red and sparkling have been awarded medals in the English and Welsh wine competitions and the Beenleigh Red has frequently been named English wine of the year. Samples of the Sharpham cheeses were then handed round before our party descended upon the shop and left for home to the gentle accompaniment of clinking bottles! Anyone who missed the trip may be interested to know that the Vineyard is open to the public and further information is available on their website - [www.sharpham.com](http://www.sharpham.com) (01803 83 22 03)

*Thanks to Pip Shail for organising such an enjoyable outing ...*

*Sharpham Vineyard re-opens to visitors from 1st March 2006, Monday to Saturday and also Sundays during June, July and August.*

*Do you have an idea for a visit which members would enjoy? Please put your suggestion to a member of the Committee, we would be delighted to hear from you.*

**WANTED FOR THE  
DEVON ARK**  
*News items, photos and articles about YOUR rare breeds - especially pigs, equines and cattle*



### **An appreciation of Colin Saunders**

I am very sad to let the group know that my friend Colin Saunders passed away 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Colin had supported the RBST for many years. He has been ill for some years, made worse by a terrible case of short term memory. This has meant that even when friends visited him he did not remember even a few minutes later – so his last few months were very lonely for him. His brother, Philip, died in 2000, so we hope that they can again be happy together. They were a lovely pair. Over the years they had thousands of poultry, including many that they showed, and of course in recent years their prize winning herd of Aberdeen Angus. The thing I will miss most is their lovely sense of humour. Neither had ever been far away from Devon or Cornwall – except as Colin used to say “The furthest I have been is California. ... California Cross that is” which is ½ mile from their home. Often you would pop around to their farm for 5 minutes and find yourself coming back 2 or 3 hours later, having been told lovely stories about their youth and the local area.

The only thing that Colin said to his brother when he was buried was “Goodbye” – his brother would have seen the funny side of that.

So perhaps we should do the same for Colin – “Goodbye Colin”

Richard Barker

### **Support Group Christmas Dinner**

Perhaps a fading memory by the time you receive this ... however, 27 members and friends enjoyed a convivial evening at the Three Little Pigs in Crediton in December. Conversation ranged freely as a happy chicken and the inner person was well filled by a delicious three course dinner. Grateful thanks to Sam Tallwin who made all the arrangements on our behalf. Do join us next year!

#### **2006 Devon County Show**

The dates for the show in 2006 are:

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May

Please put these in your diary ready for helping and taking part.

Livestock entries will have to be in during March.

Schedules will be available from: Devon County Show Office,  
Westpoint, Clyst St Mary, Exeter



### **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. He welcomes comments, photographs and text for the website - it's only as good as we make it! Richard would also like to set up a register of members willing to be contacted for information on specific breeds or species, and/or who offer services/have livestock/goods for sale.

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

### **Subscription Renewals for 2005 - £5**

Subs for 2005 are now long overdue. A red cross on your envelope means you have not paid for 2005. Cheques payable to RBST Devon Support Group to the Treasurer please. The Committee regrets this will be the last newsletter sent to members who have not renewed for 2005.

### **Membership List**

Please send your email details to Nikki Morgan at  
**[nikki@billmorgan.co.uk](mailto:nikki@billmorgan.co.uk)**

### **Sheep Workshop**

In a moment of weakness I agreed to organise and host the



Manx Loaghtan Sheep Breeders' Group workshop 2006. This will be held at the Sheldon Centre on the edge of Dartmoor from 9th to 11th June. It will be open to anyone interested in sheep, you don't have to keep Manx or even anything woolly to be there! I plan to include a sheep workshop - content will depend somewhat on whether or not the flock is still wearing it's fleeces - a visit to the Fowlescombe flocks in South Devon (with a butchery demonstration for cutting primitive carcasses and a farm walk) and a visit to North Down Farm approved rare breeds centre. Oh, and a good dinner! More details in the Spring Devon Ark, but please do put the dates in your diary. Contact Hillary Hanson on 01647 253 903 or email [hillary@sheldon.uk.com](mailto:hillary@sheldon.uk.com)





## Recipe Page

### Sausage Casserole

Much more delicious than you might think!

You will need a large frying pan with a lid, or similar

Allow 2-3 good size "proper" sausages per person, preferably from rare breed pigs - can be plain or flavoured varieties

3 sticks celery, washed and sliced  
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into rings  
1 small onion, peeled and finely sliced  
1 pepper, any colour, seeded and sliced  
4oz mushrooms, cleaned and quartered or sliced depending on size  
1 cooking apple, peeled, cored and sliced  
2 tbs oil  
@ 1/2 pt apple juice (perhaps a little more)  
2-3 dst spoons cornflour

Grill, fry or oven cook the sausages until browned and cooked through  
Allow to go cold, then slice into mouthfuls

In a large pan, fry the onion in the oil until soft  
Add the apple and all the other vegetables except the mushrooms  
Add enough apple juice to almost cover the vegetables  
Put the lid on and simmer until the vegetables are nearly cooked  
Add the sausages and raw mushrooms and bring back to the simmer  
Mix the cornflour with a little apple juice or water and add just enough to thicken the casserole (how much depends on the juiciness of your apple and vegetables)  
Make sure the sausages are completely re-heated before serving  
Serve with rice or potatoes

A very forgiving dish - a variety of vegetables could be used, the more colourful the better - the onion can safely be left out, especially if you have a leek instead - avoid using elderly mushrooms which turn everything a miserable shade of grey!



## **SOUTH HAM LAMB**

Lamb for all seasons

Naturally the best

Roger & Dodie Huxter  
Tel/fax:  
01363 775 928

## **YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD BE IN THIS SPACE**

contact Hillary Hanson,  
Acting Editor  
01647 253 903  
hillary@sheldon.uk.com

## **FOR SALE**

### *Hatching Eggs, Chicks & Growers*

*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 and White, Silver grey bantams, Dutch bantams, Fayoumis, Friesins, Jersey Giants, Ladenvelders - large and bantam, Marans, Norfolk Greys, North Holland Blues, Old English Pheasant Fowl, Rhode Bars, Rhode Island Red, Scots Dumpies - large and bantams, Silkies, Sulmtaler, Sultans, Sumatra Game, Sussex - Light, Buff, Speckled and White, Transylvanian Naked Necks, Welsummers, White Leghorns - large and bantam, Wyandottes - Silver Laced and Barred

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

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

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



### Small Ads Page

Please send advertisements to the Acting Editor with £1.00 per issue (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.

### For Sale

\* **Weaners** (when available). Pure Tamworth (ginger) or Berkshire x Tamworth (ginger with black spots) for your own excellent home grown pork and bacon.

\* **Wiltshire Horns** - the self shearer sheep. These sheep don't need shearing as the wool falls out without human assistance. Flock dispersal. Up to 23 ewes to choose from + 1 ram (2002) ARR/ARR. To be sold individually or as entire flock. Ram in with ewes in November unless sold.

\* All livestock organically fed and raised.

\* **Nicola Douglas 01395 597630** (leave a message) - Sidbury

### Stallion at Stud

#### \* **Kofingal**

15hh part bred Arab bay  
Excellent temperament, has won in hand and ridden classes, produces quality young stock from horses and ponies. Ring for Stud Card.

#### **Jackie Hayford,**

Bearscombe, Diptford, Totnes  
**01548 821 212**

### For Hire

#### \* **Dun Dexter Bull**

medium leg, very quiet

### For Sale

#### \* **Succulent Jacob x Texel Lamb**

halves or whole. Occasionally Dexter Beef, once you have tasted Dexter you will never want to eat anything else! All naturally reared on a Dartmoor hill farm. If you would like to order lamb or go on a waiting list for

"Delicious Dartmoor Dexter" ...

**please ring 01364 621 281**

### For Sale

\* **Shetland yarn, scarves, throws, knee rugs and pashminas** as well as Shetland sheepskin rugs.

Full details and price list from **Dodie Huxter on 01363 775 928**

### For Sale

#### \* **Tamworth Pigs**

#### \* **Fell Ponies**

Sue Williamson of Redruth in Cornwall has to give up keeping livestock and is anxious to find good rare breed homes for her animals. She has a group of registered or eligible Tamworth piglets, weaners, gilts, sows and a good-tempered boar available.

Also registered or eligible Fell ponies, up to 13.2 hh and capable of carrying a full grown adult.

Contact Sue Williamson on

**01209 215 928**

**tamworthpigs@yahoo.co.uk**

more details on websites:

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

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

### Wanted

\* **small PIG ARK or similar**  
**Nikki Morgan - 01647 253 130**



# 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  
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### Boxed Lamb

Well hung and expertly prepared

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**Award winning**  
– eight of cat

Please ring Steve  
[www.the-devon-meat.com](http://www.the-devon-meat.com)



*Gathering for the Christmas Dinner at the Three Little Pigs*

