

SMALL FARM TRAINING GROUP

February 2022 Newsletter

This month's newsletter includes:

- 1000 Years of Traditional Farming, Part 5
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- Meet our very own Superwoman, Denise Taylor, living the smallholding dream
 - Sow Grow and Cook (its back!)



February 2022

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Letter from the Chair

By Zoe Chinman

As I write this letter, the wind is howling outside, there are 32 trees down in our garden, (so far) and my polytunnel is shaking more than Mr. Stevens, and the worst is meant to be over! I know many of our members in Horam and Heathfield have struggled with no electricity for 24hrs + (I'm almost crying for you at the thought of the freezers defrosting) and several of you have suffered with fallen trees, damage to fencing, and to buildings. As yet, I haven't heard of any serious injuries to man or beast, so fingers crossed by the time you read this the storms and windy weather of this week are well and truly past us and that you have all survived mostly unscathed.

Don't forget that you can always ask for help on the members forum or Facebook page if you need any support and help - whether for a recommendation for a fencer or someone to store some frozen food. We are run by our members, for our members, and are here to support each other where we can.

As the weather moves on, and as we move into Spring, we have some exciting things to look forward to, with lots and lots of new workshops, meet the member events, and social activities planned and available to book online. (Do look - things book up quickly!). We also have some of our members who'll be on TV very soon - The

What events are coming up..

MARCH 2022

- 5th March - Raising Meat Chickens for Eating - The Free-Range Way
- 6th March - Introduction to Keeping Pigs
- 6th March - Beginners Salami & Chorizo Making Workshop
- 12th March - Spinning and Drop Spindle Morning Workshop
- 13th March - Mushroom Log Making Afternoon
- 18th March - Free Talk: Practical Fluid Therapy for Sheep & Goats

Small Farm Training Group were asked to help celebrity TV chef Marcus Waring to learn smallholding skills for a new TV programme*, filming took place last summer and many of our members were involved. This is yet another testament to the rise of mainstream interest in smallholding skills and self-sufficiency in general, and we certainly feel proud to have been asked as a group to get involved, and hopeful that it will generate more members for the group, which is always a good thing.

* "Tales from a Kitchen Garden" airs on BBC Two on 28th February and every weeknight at 6.30pm. Personally I am feeling more than a little nervous as the date grows closer, you'll find me cringing behind the sofa if you need me.

Stay safe and see you all soon.

Zoe x



1. May's illustration from the Julius work calendar (11th Century CE)

1000 years of traditional farming

Part 5 - May

By Paul Lovatt-Smith

Thank goodness, it is now the merry month of May, we have made it through another winter and are still alive to tell the tale. The month was called "Threemilk" in Old English (which was the language spoken by the Saxons) because grazing livestock could be milked three times a day, due to the richness of new plant growth.

May is a special month and I think the picture is an equally special one within the calendar. It shows a pleasant pastoral scene. On the left sits a bearded shepherd, powerfully built, and dressed in a tunic, cape and gartered stockings. He has an air of wisdom and respectability. In the centre there are five adult sheep, one of which is a ewe suckling its lamb. Uniquely amongst the calendar illustrations, the artist has used green ink to emphasise the nutritious new plant growth, on which a couple of the sheep are grazing. On the right are two seated men who seem to be observing the scene while the shepherd is oblivious of their presence. The balding man in the background is pointing towards the sheep or shepherd and

20th March - Raising Quail for Meat & Eggs

20th March - Willow Structures

26th March Easter Felt Bauble Workshop

26th March - An Introduction to Smallholding

APRIL 2022

2nd April - Practical Lambing

6th April - Beginners Pressure and Water Bath Canning Workshop

8th April - Free Talk: Finding Treasures on Your Land

9th April - An Introduction to Smallholding

12th April - Small Small Farmers Keeping Quail for Pets and Eggs

23rd April - An Introduction to Small Holding

23rd April - Kitchen Gardening

MAY 2022

11th May - Raising Quail for Meat and Eggs

20th May - Free Talk: Deer Management & Control

28th May - Heathfield Show

JUNE 2022

1st June - Meet the Member: Denise Taylor

10th June - 12th June: South of England Show

17th June - Free Talk Rural Crime

26th June - Midsummer Members BBQ

JULY 2022

16th July Strawberry Tea

17th July - Raising Your Own Turkey for Christmas

talking to the other, who is listening. The robes worn by the man in the foreground, who is barefoot, show him to be a religious cleric (according to the 2010 PHD thesis by S.L. Shepherd referenced in the British Library bibliography). Who could these onlookers be and what are they talking about? More on this later but first let's consider what the picture tells us about Saxon sheep farming and how it relates to our smallholding's sheep farming today.

One major difference is that there are no such true shepherds in England today. Our sheep, like everyone else's, are kept within the boundaries of our holding by fences and hedges. These Saxon sheep would have been free ranging over a large area, tended by their watchful guardian. We go to bed at night in our house, not under a cape or in a rudimentary shelter in all weathers like the Saxon shepherd would have done. What luxury we have, yet what connection with our livestock, nature and the elements we have lost!



Unlike most modern breeds and the Lleys on our smallholding, these Saxon sheep have horns and un-docked tails. Horns would have been needed for defense against predators - wolves and eagles were still common in Saxon times. These days, there are no such predators of adult sheep, although worrying by domestic dogs is an ever-present threat. Foxes, badgers, and some of the larger birds will attack young lambs, however. We tend to dock tails at a young age because runny faeces stick to them and attracts egg-laying blowflies, the maggots from which eat the skin, causing damage to the fleece, injury and even death. Runny faeces result from intestinal worms and/or too much grass in the diet - the natural balance of a sheep's diet is 60% grazing and 40% browsing. As any sheep-keeper will know, intestinal worms inevitably arise in sheep that are enclosed in the same field(s) for too long or in too high a stocking density. Prior to the invention of strong chemical drenches in the 20th Century, there was no effective natural medicine for worms and sheep had to be moved to pastures new every few weeks. Chemical drenches are now routinely used, sheep are moved far less - ours even stay in the same pasture all year round. However, these drenches are toxic and persist in the faeces, causing

30/31st July Hay making
Festival

31st July - Beginners
Pressure and Water Bath
Canning Workshop

SEPTEMBER 2022

15th September - SFTG
Social Cuppa at the Dolphin
Sheep Fair

25th September -
Dehydrating for Beginners

If there is a course you would like to do but haven't seen listed, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Get Social

Don't forget that we're also on Facebook and Instagram...why not follow us and see what we're up to!

Insta:

@small_farm_training_group

Facebook:

Small Farm Training Group



Why not let us follow you and your Facebook/Insta accounts and we can help you with your smallholding dreams and promote your goods to SFTG followers?

harm to invertebrates, the wider ecosystem and perhaps us too, when we eat the sheep. We try to minimise the use of such drenches, only giving them to individual sheep when an infestation is apparent. We also try to reduce worm burdens naturally by encouraging high species diversity in our pasture, more hedgerows for browsing and by having a low stocking density.

Our local common grazing land, the Dicker Common, was removed by enclosure in the 19th Century, otherwise in order to give our fields a rest I might be holidaying there with our sheep, rather like the shepherd in the picture. By contrast, those Saxon sheep, ranging with their shepherd over a large and vegetationally-varied area, must have had a lovely worm-free and balanced diet.



The Saxon sheep are drawn in quite a stylised way and it's not possible to tell for sure how big they are or what colour their fleeces are. They would probably be classified today as a "primitive" breed, such as the Soay (see picture on left), a relatively small (by today's standards) but hardy horned

breed. Milk, meat and wool would have all been valued products. The milk would probably have been used for cheese-making, perhaps mixed with cow or goat's milk. In contrast, like most sheep in this country today, ours are not milked and the wool has very little value (around £5 a fleece). I shear with blade shears, as they would have done in Saxon times and feel I have earned a beer or two afterwards, even though we only have around 10 sheep. I also appreciate how important wool for clothing must have been to the Saxons, having had a batch of my Lleyn wool spun by a local mill into yarn, which we then dyed with woad and madder and had knitted into jumpers and socks. There is no comparison between the feel and warmth of wool and that of artificial fibre.

4. Woad-dyed jumper and socks made from our sheep's wool



Jobs for the month

By Caroline Upton

Its all in the prep!

It's the time of the year when we all start to get ready for the new growing season.

Its time to...

Clean greenhouses/poly tunnels... Removing any traces of mould or fungus that might affect seeds and to allow maximum light through..

Mulch beds and borders... with either home grown garden compost or aged manure. You can then cover any veg beds with plastic to keep weeds down and help the soil to warm up..

Sow Cosmos, Sweet Peas and Tomatoes... (really, anything early flowering 😊) These can be started off under cover now or on a sunny windowsill, ready for planting out a later date. If the Cosmos or Sweetpeas start to get a little leggy just pinch out the growing tip. This encourages side shoots and more flowers

Lift and divide snowdrops and cowslips when they start to go over... This can look a bit brutal but they will come back! And usually with more vigour!

March, April and May are the main months for lambing in the traditional farming year and the presence of a lamb in the picture shows that this has not changed. We lamb in early May, and we sell the lambs for meat later in the year at 5-7 months. Lamb meat is a modern phenomenon - the meat in Saxon times would almost certainly been in the form of mutton from older animals. Nowadays mutton is mostly eaten "dressed as lamb" - in kebab houses and Indian restaurants. We have plans to convert to mutton in future as we would feel happier giving our lambs a longer life and mutton is reputed to be healthier.



1. Our Lleyn ewes and lambs, May 2015

Now back to the humans in the picture. First let's have a closer look at the shepherd. Big, strong, bearded (signifying age and wisdom), well-dressed in tunic, cape, shoes, stockings and garters, he is a stand-out figure, in comparison with the others in the calendar. However, it is odd that although he is holding a staff in his right hand, the artist has not taken the trouble to draw a shepherd's crook on the end of it - one end of the staff lies on the ground and the other disappears under his right arm. I had been looking at the picture for some time when I noticed a cylindrical object tucked



under the crook of his right arm, approximately in line with the staff. Then it dawned on me: the staff is a crutch. The shepherd is lame. He is seated on the ground to rest his bad right leg, which is stretched out straight in front of him.

2. The shepherd

Although today it would seem surprising that such a physically-demanding job as shepherding could be done by a lame man, in those days the employment options for him would have been very limited. Most of the other jobs shown on the calendar would be have

Plant Dahlia tubers under cover.... These will provide some late summer colour



Picnic Pie

By Cat Bush

This is a recipe shared by our lovely Cat from the BBC Good Food website. She said it's a winner so give it a try and let us know what you think,

If anyone has any other recipes that they want to share please email it to me on editor@sftg.org.uk and I'll publish it.

Total Time: 1.5 hours

Serves: 8

Ingredients

To make the pastry:

225g Plain Flour
55g Lard
55g Block margarine
water to mix

To make the filling:

450g Sausage meat
225g Streaky bacon
(chopped into small pieces)
4-6 eggs

Method

Preheat the oven to gas mark 6. Make the pastry by rubbing the fat into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Mix with enough water to make a stiff dough.

impossible with a crutch and a game leg. He must have been a very skilful shepherd, however, in order to compensate for such a lack of mobility.



3. Saxon warrior

It would be strange if the observers' conversation did not include the cause of the shepherd's disability. Such a big, strong and respectable man may not always have been lame and a shepherd. Perhaps the tale being told is of a famous battle against Viking invaders in which a brave and powerful warrior burst out from the Saxon shield wall and, despite suffering a bone-crunching axe blow to his right leg, speared the savage Danish chieftain through the heart and turned the tide of the battle. Shepherds may not have always been as gentle as they look.

4. The two onlookers

What more can be said about the two clerical observers? The artist has taken great care to depict individual facial characteristics and even expressions: the far, pointing man is balding with short, dark hair, and the near man has longer, curly hair and what seems to be a short goatee beard. The near man's cape and robes are depicted in great detail. The two men are physically close to each other and they look happy in each other's company. They are definitely friends.



The artist was almost certainly a cleric, like the men depicted, so allow me to speculate a little more. These onlookers, like the shepherd, are portrayals of individuals who were well-known to the artist. It would be understandable if he were tempted to draw himself somewhere in the calendar. The drawing is so finely and skilfully done. Is the man in the foreground a self-portrait? It's nice to think so.

Roll out two thirds of the pastry and cover an eight-inch-deep pie dish.

Prick the bottom and sides to allow steam to escape. Cover the bottom with greaseproof paper and add dry rice or baking beans until the bottom is covered to a depth of an inch. Bake blind for about 15 mins. When firm remove the greaseproof paper and discard.

Put sausage meat in the bottom of the pastry case and smooth down. Scatter the chopped bacon on top making sure that the sausage meat is entirely covered. Break the eggs over the top until almost to the top of the pastry case.

Roll out second piece of pastry and cover the pie. Make sure that it is well sealed around the edges, make 4 or 5 small slits in the centre of the top to let the steam escape. Brush with beaten egg.

Cook in the oven for 15 mins. Turn the oven down to gas 4 and cook for a further 45 mins. Serve hot or cold



Meet the Member – Denise Taylor

By Denise Taylor

Denise bought 4 acres of land in Chiddingly in September 2019 with the dream of building a sustainable life for her and her family. She bought the land with a legacy left by her father who knew that this was Denise's dream. Denise then left her job as a School Business Manager and traded her heels for wellies! Read on for some Q&A with this superwoman (we're all in awe of her!).

What drew you to the small holding dream?

It all started in 2015 with 2 allotment plots in Blackboys which I was lucky enough to rent, the opportunity then arose to have 4 plots – this was whilst I was still working full time but the bug of growing my own food and providing for my family had taken hold. It was hard work juggling my job with all the allotment work of digging, planting, harvesting and then preserving my crops and it took up all our time in the evenings and weekends, but we realised that the fruit and veg we were eating tasted so much better plus it is a much healthier and sustainable way of life. Then came a couple chickens for the eggs and the rest is history.

Fast forward to 2020 and with the legacy from my dad and a lot of being in the right place at the right time, I am now the proud owner of 4 acres of land that I have called Hope Springs (my dad was called



Letter from the Editor

By Caroline Upton

The excitement is starting for the new growing season! It's hard to choose from the vast choice of seeds that we now have access to thanks to the internet, but I like to try something new every year. Any winners from the previous season are also included but it seems a shame to restrict yourself just to what the local nursery has to offer. This year I've ordered from DT Browns as they have some interesting varieties that I wanted to try out. I'll be trying 'Sun Grape' and 'Sakura' tomatoes which are F1's, so not a heritage variety, but I wanted something blight resistant after we lost some of our harvest last year.

I've also started an early sowing of broad beans direct into the raised beds but under some cloches just to provide them with some extra protection.

We're also starting to prep the raised beds for this new season of growing. Last year we did half the beds with the 'no dig' approach and the rest were dug over with compost. Both yielded

Dave Hope) together with Pigs, Goats, Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks, Bees and more vegetable plots and polytunnels and I am now a self-employed "agricultural worker" with no money but enough home raised meat and veg to feed us and the family. I sell eggs, meat and vegetables at the farm gate to pay for animal feed etc, but my Business Manager brain tells me that I will never be cash rich again!!!

What is your favourite and least favourite job of smallholding?

My favourite job and least favourite jobs of smallholding are the same job - cleaning out the animal's houses - the pig sties, the chicken houses and the goat shed are my least favourite as it is hard smelly work but then when I put in clean fresh bedding and seeing the chickens scratching and rolling around and the pigs snorting around in their new bedding, I realise it is my favourite job!

What makes you smile?

I have 4 grandchildren (I was obviously **very very** young when I had my children!) and have lots of friends with young children who come to visit Hope Springs and seeing the looks on the kids' faces when they collect eggs from the chicken houses never gets dull and always makes me smile - especially when they find a blue egg!

What makes you cry?

This is going to sound really corny, but I can honestly say that I have never been happier. Although I work alone for most of the time and there are days when it is freezing cold and muddy, and I wonder how warm, clean and dry my office at school is - so to sum up, nothing has made me cry since starting this new way of life!

What's the best thing about SFTG

I joined the SFTG in September 2020 for the discount card for animal feed (sorry just being honest) but then met Zoe who persuaded me there was so much more to the SFTG than a discount card. I have since been on training courses and have delivered a couple of courses on food dehydrating and being part of a like-minded community is great - I have made some good friends and have learnt so much from people who have been doing this a lot longer than me - that wealth of experience is priceless. I also like the way we work as a community and help each other out from lending out pig boards or rehoming cockerels! I have also used the "Tool Shed" which worked well for me.

equally productive crops but the 'no dig' approach saved both time and effort, so we'll be adopting that approach this year for ALL beds! Hurray!

I've also started to clean the greenhouse inside and out to make sure it's an optimum growing place for all the seeds I plan to do. I am very much looking forward to the next few months and getting inundated with plants in the greenhouse which invariably happens every year (I'm still refusing to throw away viable seedlings!!).

As always if anyone has any ideas for articles or would like to contribute an article, please send your ideas to [**editor@sftg.org.uk**](mailto:editor@sftg.org.uk)



Talking Rheas

By Catriona Bush

This was a very popular talk, with most folk being like me, and knowing absolutely nothing about Rheas. I think though the vast majority left feeling they would love a couple. A big attraction being that Pauline said they were good weed eaters!

Rheas are flightless birds, distantly related to both the ostrich and the emu. There are two main Rhea



Stock Fencing

By Jenny Cloke

In January I went on the stock fencing workshop run by Owena Lewis. On the course we re-used old materials and put up a fence so that Owena's sheep and horses no longer had access to part of a field, and she created a re-wilding area. It all seemed so easy - we were very proud of the fence we erected and the trainer and struts, posts and wire all seemed to go up easily. You can see how nice it looks in the photo. Owena is a very practical person and made everything seem so easy including getting good tension on the wire - something I have never managed before. I came home really inspired!

Dan said he would help me do some fencing. He is usually so rude about my cackhandedness and my inability to hit staples in straight. I told him I had been on this workshop, and I'd learn loads of tips and so and we tackled gate post number one! It had been protected with hurdles since shearing, so it was about time the slamming post was replaced. I was so proud - it went in a dream - it has taken me 6 months to replace it. The rotted post came out easily, the hole was dug to the right depth, the new post went in easily and is straight and firm and even my staples are reasonably professional. It all took just a few hours.

Flushed with our success Dan said he would come back and help me with the other gate post that needed replacing. I thought it would be even more of a doddle as it was a smaller diameter than the first post. My other half, David, said check that the post was rotten and

species....the greater or American Rhea and the lesser, or Darwin's Rhea plus a separate species of Rhea called the Puna Rhea. Both the greater and puna rheas are near threatened in their native habitat (South America) with Darwin's rhea (which Pauline rears) being of lesser concern. There is a feral population of the greater Rhea in Germany, which is causing some concern to the locals so population control measures there have been introduced.

The larger Rhea, the American, stands about 5.5ft from head to toes while the smaller is about 3.3 ft. They have very long legs which they use to run up to 37miles an hour, which is a lot faster than the fastest human. The legs are also used to defend themselves.

The male Rhea is the one who builds the nest and cares for the chicks until they are about six months old. They are polygamous so after breeding with one male the female moves on to the next nest although the males become very aggressive, so the females lay their eggs near the nest and leave it to the male to roll the egg into the nest. The males also incubate the eggs which take about a month to incubate.

If you want to meet Pauline's Rheas come to the annual picnic on 26th June!

not just poorly supported as he remembered putting it in with me. I have no recollections of this although I know the gate was given to me by my father so has probably been there for 15 years or so. The post was rotten! David and I had concreted it in - Owena had said don't use concrete! It may give good support to the post when you initially put it in, but it was certainly hard work getting it out. Instead of using a bag of postcrete we had gone over the top and used three times as much proper concrete with coarse aggregate. At the end of day one I suggested to Dan we should start again and put the post in a different position - he thought we were nearly there - but he was wrong - it took us another day and a half of chipping away at it and we eventually had to lift the lump out with the tractor! Dan said he didn't think we had learnt 'muttering' on our workshop - strangely enough not much 'muttering' was needed with Owena!



Press Release: Heathfield Agricultural Show celebrates 75th anniversary

With the Heathfield Show day looming we are excited to announce that there will be a £500 prize, kindly donated by PJ Skips, for the Champion of Champions in the Horse Section of the Heathfield Agricultural Show on 28th May 2022. An opportunity not to be missed! Entries are now live on the new Show web site for all Cattle, Sheep, Pig and Horse classes. The past two Shows have had to be cancelled because of the pandemic so to the comeback for our 75th anniversary is even more poignant. The Showing scene has been in hibernation, so we are expecting high exhibitor numbers as people dust off their showing kit boxes and start getting their livestock back into Show ready condition. Closing date for livestock entries is 1st April, and Horse classes 14th April. There will be a full showing schedule and exciting events going on around the Showground throughout the day, including a fly past by a Hurricane (subject to weather conditions) and the



Sow Grow Cook – the humble potato...

This is the month to start chitting your seed potatoes, this means placing them in trays (egg boxes are even better) somewhere moderately light, ideally a north facing window. The little spot where the potato was attached to the root should be at the bottom. If you buy from a shop you will have a very limited choice but some of the seed catalogues have lots of unusual varieties, that are often much more flavorsome than the same old same old varieties. The Organic Catalogue has a good choice or try Albert Bartlett Seed Potatoes. I would strongly recommend "Casablanca" for an early variety (harvest from early July), it has a lovely creamy taste. "Charlotte" for salad (or baking if you leave them in long enough!). Then there is "Vivaldi"

which is delicious and ideal for the calorie conscious, as it has fewer calories/Kg. There are potatoes for every taste. It can be difficult to know how many Kg to buy, and of course it depends on how many you eat, but we buy 5kg of seed potatoes to feed two of us for a year. However, if you are to be self-sufficient in potatoes you need somewhere dark and cool to store them, that is also frost proof, and you need to be prepared, by this time of year, to eat slightly shrunken tubers that are sprouting.

Planting doesn't start until late March in this area, it's a tradeoff between getting lovely early potatoes as early as possible, and the risk of frost killing the leaves and setting the growth back by weeks. You can get a few very early potatoes by planting in a container now and keeping them somewhere frost free such as a heated greenhouse, but in my experience, the yields are poor.

Digging trenches for potatoes should be a thing of the past. The no dig method saves all the back breaking work of digging trenches and earthing up, and yields just as well. You make small holes with a trowel to stand the potatoes upright in them. The spacing should be 12 inches for earlies, 15 inches for maincrop, including salad potatoes. And the rows need to be 2-3 feet apart. When you have completed a row cover the potatoes with compost, and well-rotted manure. You can "earth them up" just as you would in the traditional system. At this point you need to prevent blackbirds from kicking all the compost around and exposing your potatoes, the easiest way is with netting or mesh which needs to be anchored down so that the birds don't get tangled in it. As the potatoes start to show leaves, cover them with grass-cuttings, straw or more compost. This protects the plants from frost, and later on, it protects the growing tubers from daylight. The latter is most important, when I first tried this method, I lost a lot of potatoes that had become green. You can't give them too much mulch, it protects, keeps moisture in and keeps the weeds down.



Meet our new Committee Member – Catriona Bush

By Cat Bush

I've been a member for about 20 years and although I was membership secretary a few years back, reckoned I still get so much from the SFTG that I should start giving back again. So that's why I

launch of the Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee appeal for East Sussex. As Show day approaches more announcements will be made, so keep an eye on www.heathfieldshow.org. The Show will definitely be living up to its new strap line "A Real Look At Country Life".



Your committee members

By Caroline Upton

We'd love to hear from you! For anyone wanting to reach out the SFTG committee members then please find our contact details below as well as who does what...

Chairperson

Zoe Chinman
Chair@sftg.org.uk
07540 633909

Vice Chair

Debbie Gordon
ViceChair@sftg.org.uk

Treasurer

Jenny Cloke
Treasurer@sftg.org.uk
01435 813252
Also gto@sftg.org.uk

Membership

Michelle Oster
Membership@sftg.org.uk
07958 771773

am now membership liaison/admin support for the group. The committee are the nicest bunch of people you could ever hope to meet and very keen for SFTG to be an all-inclusive group so if you have any suggestions or comments please just say. Whether it's more parties, more courses or whatever. I promise you'll get a good reception!

If you don't know me already, come and say hello at any Friday evening meeting or come for a cup of coffee with me and my pigs.



Pre-lambing Sheep Report

By Jenny Cloke

The very dry and mild January weather has been fabulous for my sheep. They have had access to hay but have generally preferred to eat the grass, which has continued to grow throughout the winter albeit slowly. I am a little concerned that the ewes carrying singles will be too fat and lambing may be difficult if they don't have a normal presentation. However, they all seem very contented when I take them their bucket of pellets each afternoon. I lamb at the end of March, so in late February the ewes will be vaccinated with Heptavac P so that the lambs have some immunity to clostridial diseases. I will also give my ewes a bolus containing iodine, cobalt, and selenium. Although my ewes probably have enough cobalt and selenium, my soil (like most Sussex soils) is low in iodine. I also have low levels of copper in the soil - so I like feeding my animals a small amount of concentrate during the winter to minimise the risk of lambs with swayback.

Friday Night Meetings

Jenny Huggett and Cliff Baylis
Meetings@sftg.org.uk

Social and Marketing

Jeanette Arthur
GetSocial@sftg.org.uk

Admin Support and Membership Liaison Officer

Catriona Bush
catrionabush@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Caroline Upton
Editor@sftg.org.uk



Welcome....

We'd like to give a warm and hearty welcome to the following people who have joined the SFTG in the last few months.

Our new members are:

Jo Rainsbury, Liam and Lizzie Scott, Daniel Hunter-Evans, Louise, Chris, Ava and Sebastian Dainty-Woodham, Donna Curtis, Kevin Jerry, Jo Taylor & Family, Tracey and Kevin Jerrey, Pete, Hazel and Isabel Sheppard, Anne Harris, Peter Davis, Nigel and Hannah Akehurst, Karen Foreman, Carolyn Copperwheat, Simone Oates, Debbie and Callia Herron, Carly Russell-Swain, Rob Bowles and Wendy Swain, Paul Worthington and



I sell some lambs in Hailsham market and I have heard that the market may be moving. A planning application for retirement living accommodation on the market site has been submitted. It is for 62 apartments in a three-storey building and a further 17

bungalows. Local residents are against such a massive scheme and even the Town Council strongly objects. If the site does become residential a new livestock market will have to be constructed first. Hailsham was granted a cattle market in 1252 by Royal Charter. The current site has been used since 1871. Rumour is that a new site for the livestock market has been found close to the A22 but as this falls outside Hailsham's boundaries the change would need to be approved by royalty. I suspect that the farmers might welcome the move - driving through Hailsham High Street with a livestock trailer is not that much fun, and now that so many banks near the market have closed (NatWest, Barclays, and HSBC) it's not as though farmers are also able to visit the bank on market day - unless they go to Lloyds! However, the market site is also host to a monthly Farmers' Market and a weekly stall market and since their customers are local shoppers, they will probably not want the market site in the centre of Hailsham to disappear.