



Welcome to your Autumn newsletter!

Hi everyone. I hope you are keeping well and enjoying your alpacas as ever even if, like me, you are slightly mourning the passing of the summer.

We have lots of news crammed into this issue for you – including reports on the latest from the BAS Board, our Fleece Show, Rosalind's experience of participating in the BAS sponsored Farm Open Day and tales from the recently held CAMELIDynamics clinic. There's also info about the up coming Vet Day and a talk to be held in November by GWF Nutrition to which you are all invited. And last, but not least, our usual husbandry tips and dates for the diary. Sandra kick us off as usual with her Chair's report.

I hope you enjoy the read and don't forget that you can look back on previous issues on the website and get all sorts of other info there too: www.cornwallcamelidassociation.com

If you are not already a member of our facebook group, please look it up (cornwallcamelidassociation) and ask to join and we will have you sorted straight away – it's a really easy way to connect to other members and ask questions or join in the chat 😊

As ever, all contributions and ideas are welcome for the next newsletter 😊
cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com

Thanks

Wendy

CCA Secretary

Message from our Chair

Sandra Muriel



I suspect many of you will be wondering where the summer has gone. Shearing, birthing, CCA fleece show, farm visitors and this year for the first time, I decided to rent our shepherds hut for short 'alpaca farm' guests. As well as the fun of staying in our hut, the guests could sit out in one of the paddocks in the evenings with the alpacas, watching the sunsets over St. Ives - which one guest described as a fairy tale. Listening to our visitors, made me realise just how lucky we are to live in Cornwall, in the countryside with peace and space.

We were shortlisted for the **Duke of Cornwall 2021 award** - an honour in itself and whilst we did not take the first place I was pleased to be recognised. A team from the Royal Cornwall Show committee visited to see where I have diversified and grown our business and see our future potential. Whilst here, I was able to discuss possibilities for an 'alpaca' section at future Royal Cornwall shows which was warmly received.



We have had more visitors than ever since we opened the gates early July, lots of families and friends, some of whom have visited us before. The cria were the star attractions, it was hard to walk beyond their paddock as people loved taking photos and watching their antics; our yearlings did very good meet and greets with the public and became experts at posing for selfies with the visitors. Our alpaca yarn sales have soared this year as we have had a wider range of yarn weights spun. I am really proud to be able to offer a range of natural black yarns, from 2 ply to chunky including our own new blend of huacaya/suri, which has been the culmination of 5 years collecting our best black fleeces.

Our 2nd **CCA Fleece Show** was a tremendous success, there is more details later in the newsletter. It is fair to say I was extremely pleased to win the CCA member Best in Show Huacaya trophy, with our light female Cherie scoring 79.5 points and the 2nd highest scoring CCA member huacaya fleece was our junior white girl Fauve who scored 78.5 points. Congratulations to Pophams for the CCA member Best in Show suri fleece.



I am disappointed there were no craft or yarn shows this year, previously SWAG and Heart of England groups have run autumn shows but not this year. I am informed that Heart of England will be having their craft show at the spring halter show, so they can have a better display. This does give anyone interested the winter months to plan and craft some entries.

The Committee have met via zoom, to ensure that we continue to offer you the newsletters, keep the Facebook page and website up to date, run the account and plan future events. We are planning a **Vets Day on 30th October**, to be kindly hosted by Gary and Felicia at Pophams, subject to any changes in covid restrictions. After missing last year, it has a feeling of returning to normality to have a vets day. More details will later in the newsletter; tickets are on a first come, first served basis and it usually is full very quickly.

On 23rd November, Nigel has arranged a **Zoom talk by GWF** who produce Camelibra and Fibregest, to discuss nutrition...more info later in the newsletter.

As we head into Autumn, I hope you are all up to date with husbandry, planning field rotations and feed routines. If your alpacas are in best condition going into the winter, they will cope better. Trimming toe nails, bonnets and if needed, tails helps keep them tidy and topup of vitamins is a must. I hope the winter passes as quickly as the summer seems to have.

Sandra

NEWS UPDATES

BAS NEWS

Kate Brookes, BAS Board member & Mullacott Alpacas



It's been an interesting and busy time on the board for the last couple of months. The BAS board's actions in relation to DEFRA's removal and slaughter of Geronimo has been well publicised, so I won't repeat it here, but I know we all want a constructive way forward to eliminate bTB in alpacas. This is something that I am likely to be even more involved with in the future, as part of my role on the board.

Education is a key aspect of work for the BAS. We have recently published dates and topics for the next set of webinars. They are £25 each to non-members, but free to members, so if you want to log in to three or more it makes good sense to be a member. If there are topics you would like covered, then please let me know.

7.00pm - Thursday 7th October 2021 Tim Hey - Preparing for Show success -27 years of experience

7.00pm - Thursday 21st October 2021 Paul Vallely - Fleece analysis explained

7.00pm - Thursday 11th November 2021 Neil Payne - Business Diversification (with alpacas)

7.00pm - Thursday 9th December 2021 Victoria Barrett - Camelidynamics

The BAS also promoted a national open alpaca farm day. This took place during the first weekend of September and proved to be hugely popular, with over 11,000 visitors to the nearly 100 open farms. I hope this will now be an annual event. I'm happy to share my experiences if anyone is thinking of participating next year.

Please remember the BAS board is elected to represent the members. There are 10 of us, all volunteers. Please make contact with me or another board member if there is anything we can assist with.

Kate

katebrookes2@gmail.com

DEVON COUNTY SHOW 2022

Chas Brooke, Classical MileEnd Alpacas | UK Alpaca Ltd



Devon County are intending to run their 2022 show 30th June-2 July 2022. This means we will not be able to hold the usual show classes for another year and will likely repeat the alpaca presence as we did this year.

They are currently advising that the usual May dates will be back on for 2023 onwards, allowing to resume show classes in May 2023.

CORNISH FLEECE SHOW 2021

Sandra Muriel, CCA Chair and Wendy Scott, CCA Secretary

With Covid restrictions starting to ease, it was great to be able to hold the Cornish Fleece Show in July. The show was sold out within days and it was great to have both returning and new entrants from across the country.

Judge Roger Clarke commended the high quality of the entries.

"Kicking off the 2021 summer show scene, I enjoyed the privilege of judging the 2nd Cornish Fleece Show.

Hosted by Dark Sky Alpacas, the entire event was a credit to the Cornwall Camelid Association and testament to all their hard work and planning.

As expected, the standard of entries was very high and it was a genuine pleasure to appraise such stunning fleeces."



With over 80 entries, it was tight scoring for the top sash, won by the Champion White Fleece Beck Brow Stars Align scoring 86.5 points, only pipping the Reserve Champion White Fleece Ashwood Nellie by one point. The light, fawn and brown champions all scored over 80 points, the Black Champion Fleece Ashwood Night of the Realm, scoring a commendable 79 points.

Of the 74 huacaya entries, 10 fleeces scored over 80 points. Only 18 fleeces scored less than 70 points. The largest class was the junior white fleeces, attracting 13 entries including the overall Supreme. It shows the high quality of the entries, when the fleece which came 7th and not awarded any rosette scored 78.5 points. In the Suri section, Beck Brow Falco (owned by Sheriff Alpacas) scored 83.5 points and the Supreme Suri sash. Although there were only 6 suri fleeces entered, all scored in the upper 70 points.

It was good to see a few entries from owners new to fleece showing and we hope that they enjoyed receiving their fleeces back with their score cards and hopefully a rosette. Roger endeavoured to make constructive comments on as many entries as possible, explaining where some extra points were gained or lost.

This year we awarded a cup each to the CCA members with the highest scoring huacaya and suri fleeces. The highest scoring huacaya fleece by a CCA member was awarded to Crewenna Cherie, 48 months+ light fleece scoring 79.5 points and the highest scoring suri fleece entered by a CCA member was awarded to Popham Surimandara, 12-24 months light fleece scoring 79.5 points.



The team of CCA member stewards, Ros (Sampford Manor Alpacas), Nigel (Carpalla Alpacas), Abha (Powwow Alpacas), Lin (Linberry Alpacas) and Sandra (Crewenna Alpacas), worked tirelessly in shifts during the day, to keep the flow of entries carefully placed on the tables ready for judging and ensuring all were repacked with the correct score cards and samples. Last year's successful partnership of Tom on computer recording the scores and Wendy (Dark Sky Alpacas) scribing kept this years show rolling, even with 20 more entries

the show finished mid afternoon. We also had Barry (Linberry Alpacas) enrolled as transport manager to guarantee the safe transport of the fleeces to and from the collection point to the venue.

After the judging, the show was open to members to come and view the entries, collect their fleeces and also benefit from a summary and general question and answer session with Roger. It was great to be able to reconnect in person and enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Roger and all the helpers and we look forward to next year.

If anyone has any ideas to add or change the show format or if you would like to get involved, please let us know via the CCA Facebook page or by email to cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com

FARM OPEN DAY

Rosalind Pugh, Sampford Alpacas



When BAS first mentioned the Open Days to promote Alpacas the dates seemed a long way off. I thought it would make a goal for getting my new field sorted. A good idea that didn't quite come off, but there was mains water put into the field 3 days before the event!

Another reason for doing it was to meet more of my neighbours as I moved less than a year ago. I did some local leafleting and did a stall at the local Chapel coffee morning which seemed to work. Various family and friends did some online promoting. I missed a call about local radio and T.V. but I was happy with the numbers that came, 132 in all. More advertising will get you more punters, but as I only have 18 alpacas now it was all fine.

A risk assessment and other planning was essential, I already had Public Liability Insurance. The 6 different family and friends who kindly helped each day, were all needed. I just floated, talking about alpacas to whoever wanted to listen!

On offer was:

1. Stroking alpacas safely behind a hurdle, for more brave people several youngsters could be walked around on leads. Followed by being directed to the tap and soap area.
 2. A children's play area with large wooden building blocks, often used by fathers, also popular was the croquet set up. (safer than cricket or football) and the chickens and runner ducks shown off by my grandson.
 3. On Saturday the public could watch a spinner and on Sunday a knitter.
 4. The stall set up with squash and cakes did good business also the one with my knitted and other products made from my herd. Because of Covid 19 I did not encourage hands plunged into fleece, but a small amount to take home is always popular with youngsters.
- The feedback was good with orders for garments in a particular colour and bookings for visits for 'alpaca experiences'. We had one visitor in high heels who asked to look at the chickens then left, another wanted tea, but it wasn't on offer as there is no electricity.



I was delighted to see the CCA members who came, hopefully someone else will do it in Cornwall next year, and I will visit them.

CAMELIDYNAMICS COURSE

Wendy Scott, Dark Sky Alpacas

In mid September, Marty McGee Bennett taught a rare four day clinic at Kate Brookes' farm, Mullacott Alpacas. Marty is based in the US and is the inventor of the CAMELIDynamics training system for camelids which is based on the science of behaviour and her brand of animal understanding. As she explains on her website, it is the result of over 30 years of experience and is a collection of methods that represent the most positive least intrusive techniques for training and managing camelids.

She was ably assisted by Victoria Barrett who is a Senior Camelidynamics Consultant based in Worcester.



In total there were 40 attendees at the clinic from all over the UK, including CCA members myself, Heather Lester, Mark and Sam Norman and of course Kate with her husband Simon – and we hopefully found a new member in Clare who is based near Helston.

The principles on which all Marty's work is based are to be **Kind, Safe, Respectful, Efficient, FUN and Based on Science** - which are hard to argue with and great to keep in mind with all our alpaca interactions.



During the course, we had a good amount of theory and even more practice – where a lot of the practice involved us being the alpaca! This sounds a bit mad but I found it to be one of the most insightful part of the programme – feeling what it may be like to be on a halter and to be pulled or pushed around, what feeling balanced and out of balance was like – all very interesting and thought provoking.

We did also have the opportunity to work with some of Kate's wonderful alpacas – learning to lead with the boys through obstacle courses out in the fields (with a tremendous view to the sea to boot) was a real highlight. This is Mark at work...



And loads more content that I couldn't do justice! In addition, there was an evening swim and a spinning and weaving session - in which Sam managed to grab some great advice for her new spinning wheel – and lots of chance to meet and learn from new alpaca friends.

If you are interested in learning more, Victoria is doing a BAS talk on the 9th of December and you can always check out Marty's web site camelidynamics.com – and I think Kate and Marty are cooking up another course for next year which we would all highly recommend!



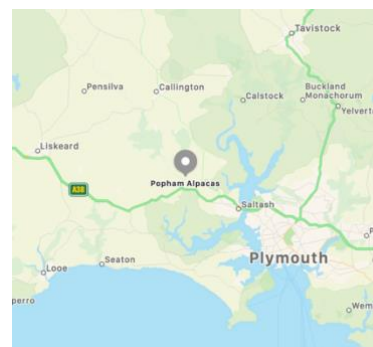
CCA EVENTS

VET DAY 2021

Date: 30th October

Featuring : CCA Honorary Vet - Sarah Caldwell, BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS

Hosted by: Gary & Felicia Sanders, Popham Alpacas



Spaces are filling fast but there is still the opportunity to attend the **Vets Day on 30th October 2021** at Popham Alpacas, Hatt.

Please let Sandra know if you would like to attend by 15th October using the attached form. The cost is £30 each for members and £40 for non members and includes lunch & refreshments through the day.

This year there are a series of **interactive stations** to discuss:

- Skin conditions; identification and treatment
- The appropriate use and administration of medicines
- Minerals and their impact of growth, development and fertility of maiden females
- Poo-anomalies!!

In order to make these sessions tailored to the CCA group, and as useful to you as possible following the event, there are 2 short **surveys being distributed for completion by 6th October**. You should have received a link to these via email and they are also available via the CCA Facebook page. The surveys should take no longer than a total of 6 minutes to complete 😊

You do not have to provide any personal details – all answers will be collated by myself and Teresa Hawkin, who is kindly assisting me, with discretion and will be presented anonymously. I consider the event to be a safe environment for open and honest discussion and a great opportunity for us to bring together our experiences and knowledge.

The event will take place in the barn to provide us with more space and plenty of ventilation. Heaters are being provided but please wear suitable clothing - and if you can bring a folding chair or two, that would be much appreciated.

Looking forward to being reunited!!

Sarah

Zoom Talk – Matt Bell, GWF Nutrition 23rd November 2021



Matthew has kindly agreed to talk to us via the wonders of Zoom and is looking forward to being able to share his passion for the products from GWF where he is the Sales Manager.

Everyone is welcome to join and the talk is included in your membership, so no charge 😊

He is going to cover:

- The layout of the camelid digestive system – why the alpaca is not a sheep with a long neck
- Their dietary requirements including the importance of forage – Keep starch low and fibre high
- The unique properties and benefits of using our Camelid feeds - Why we do what we do, and what we do to keep on top.

If anyone has a relatable question they would like addressed during the evening, they are more than welcome to email matt mbell@gwfnutrition.com and he will do his best to cover as many as possible.

Please email Wendy at cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com if you'd like to attend and Zoom details will be sent out nearer the time



WELFARE

Top Autumn Husbandry Tips

1. Buy in and ensure you have enough **hay** to last through the winter months
2. Check stocks and commence **vitamin supplements** where required especially dark coated/pregnant/young/old
3. Ensure adequate **winter accommodation** is available and secured against winds if 'mobile'
4. Body score, check jaws, teeth and toenails, look for evidence of mites.
5. Make sure cria have been **vaccinated** against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination



ADVERTISEMENTS

The CCA's honorary vet; Sarah Caldwell BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS is now providing a **bespoke camelid consultancy service**.



TheHumanVet offers:

- A second opinion for clinical cases; working alongside your vet for a consistent approach,
- Health planning for all herd sizes, new and established, for all experience levels.

For more information visit www.thehumanvet.com

Contact Sarah at info@thehumanvet.com

SHOW DATES FOR THE DIARY (as published by BAS 01/10/21)

Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show

Dates: 16th and 17th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Barbara Hetherington

Venue: York Auction Mart, Murton, York YO19 5GF

Organiser James Stanger, Email: jameslstanger11@gmail.com Tel: 07757687378

Northern Fleece Show

Date: 23rd October 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Venue:

Max entries 80

Organiser: Stuart Ramsey Email: stuart@velvethall-alpacas.co.uk Telephone 07787508448

Fleeces delivered to **WESTYETT FARM, LANARK, ML11 8NT**

Northern Halter Show

Dates: 30th and 31st October 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Penrith Auction Mart

Entry fee: £22 +VAT

Organiser: Ian Mitchell, treasurer@bas-uk.com, 07813 145013

Midlands Championship Halter Show

Date: 6th November 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Three Counties Show Ground

Entries open: Monday 13th Sept 9 am

Entries Close: 17th Oct

Entry fee: £32.40 +VAT

Organisers:

ROGER MOUNT roger.mount@btinternet.com 07711044106/01386853841

IAIN SHARP iain.c.sharp@gmail.com 07722953635

JAY HOLLAND jay@purealpacas.co.uk 07789257222

NEBAG Halter Show

Date: 20th November 2021

Venue: Hexham Mart, Northumberland

Judge: Roger Clarke

Further details to follow.

National Show

Date: 25th, 26th and 27th March 2022

Judges: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith and Mr Tim Hey

Venue: Telford International Centre

Entries open for pre booking: 1st December 2021

Organiser: Duncan Pullar 07496 578781, ceo@bas-uk.com

NWAG Halter Show

Date: Saturday 2nd April 2022

Judge: Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Borderway Mart, Carlisle.

HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2022

Show Dates: Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

To be held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre

Scottish Alpaca Championship

Dates: 23rd and 24th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Lanark Auction Market

Entries open: 18th February 2022

Entries Close: 24th March 2022t

Entry fee: £22 inc VAT

Organiser Stuart Ramsay