



East Anglia Support Group  
 Newsletter Number 3 June 2008  
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We are very grateful to Purdys Solicitors, Market Place, Reepham (01603 870606) for sending out this newsletter. As you know, Anglia Farmers usually do our newsletter, but this time Purdys have offered as we have an extra page for the survey and the s.a.e. which makes it a more time consuming job.

**Dates for the Diary**

**Royal Norfolk Show** – 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June  
[www.royalnorfolkshow.com](http://www.royalnorfolkshow.com)

**Suffolk Smallholders, Stonham  
 Barns** – 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Wayland Show, Watton**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Telephone - 01953 882125 for schedule  
[www.waylandshow.com](http://www.waylandshow.com)

**BBO at John Carrick's, Swanton  
 Morley, near Dereham**  
 10<sup>th</sup> August

At Castle Farm on the River Wensum.  
 John will arrange a 1 ½ hour walk starting at 10.30am – bring hiking boots – (Kingfishers, Swans and much more) Or join us at 12 at Castle Farm for a BBQ at 1.00pm – White Park steaks, strawberries & cream etc.  
 £12.50 per head. Children £5  
[www.carricksatcastlefarm.co.uk](http://www.carricksatcastlefarm.co.uk)  
 Please let Suzannah know numbers by August 1<sup>st</sup>

**Aylsham Show**  
 25<sup>th</sup> August

Telephone: 01263 732432 for schedule  
[www.aylshamshow.co.uk](http://www.aylshamshow.co.uk)

**TRADITIONAL NATIVE BREEDS  
 Show & Sale**

<http://www.grassroots.co.uk/melton.html>

12th-13th September 2008

**Annual Dinner** – 10<sup>th</sup> October, Brome Grange A140 south of Diss – this is a good event to socialise and raise funds for the Group. **Speaker:** Richard Storer on his life in the RAF and his huge career change to run a Rare Breeds Farm.  
 PLEASE put it in your diary.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a **SURVEY** form. Please help us keep our records up to date by completing, and returning it in the stamped addressed envelope. It will help us in finding stock for displays, updating addresses etc.

**Norfolk Horn Sheep for Easton  
 College**

Following our successful fund-raising at last year's dinner, we have purchased a 'starter flock' of pedigree Norfolk Horns for Easton College. They were on display at the College Open Day on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be on our stand at the Royal Norfolk Show.

At last we have a Support Group website! It is a template on the main RBST site (the only way we are allowed to have it) - and can be accessed by going to [www.rbst.org.uk](http://www.rbst.org.uk) clicking on Support Groups & clicking on East Anglia on the map, then looking for the Secretary's address, at the bottom you will find the website address to click on. That is an extremely long winded way, so here is a quick link – <http://east-anglia.rbst.org.uk> which will take you straight to it. Note there is no 'www' because it is a template. Please let me (Kerry) have any comments, ideas, photographs, for sale /wanted items and any appropriate web sites for the links page. [kanga@which.net](mailto:kanga@which.net)

**Helpers**

If you can help at any of our events, (even for an hour), or loan stock, please contact Roger Bowden (01359 270084 - [bowdens2@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bowdens2@dsl.pipex.com))

**OUR YOUNG HANDLER  
 BURSARIES HAVE BEEN  
 AWARDED TO:-**

**Hamish Beaton, Ashdon, Essex,  
 9 years old.**

Hamish got his first Norfolk Horns in August 2006 and has recently joined the Support Group. He went to the Suffolk Show in 2007 to watch, before entering show classes later in the Summer. Hamish started his showing career at this year's Suffolk Show (due to last summer's FMD restrictions), following the Young Handlers' Workshop in April. Hamish says that with his

bursary he will... "use the money to buy a new white coat, some shampoo and cornucrescine, and a book on how to show sheep".

**Victoria Steel, Banham, Norfolk. 9 years old.**

Victoria is involved with Whitefaced Woodland sheep and attends numerous shows. She plans to spend her bursary on... "white halters to show my sheep with so they match their fleeces. I would probably also buy some new feed bowls for them to eat out of instead of the bottoms of buckets." Victoria concluded by saying that she needs to win prize money at the shows she attends in order to fund the training of her own Border Collie puppy, Gem.

**Robert Steel, Banham, Norfolk. 8 years old.**

Robert gets involved with the family flock of Whitefaced Woodland sheep. He also plans to spend his bursary on similar items to big sister Victoria, such as feed bowls and halters. He also thinks it would be a good idea to purchase some new water buckets for use at shows.

**Catherine Steel, Banham, Norfolk. 4 years old.**

Catherine helps the family with the Whitefaced Woodland flock and attends shows along with Robert and Victoria. She thinks the bowls and halters are a good idea but adds... "I would buy some animal shampoo and a sponge to wash them clean if they are dirty from being in muddy fields and I'm going to take them to shows".

**Melissa Starkings, Fleggburgh, Norfolk. 11 years old.**

Melissa has been involved with sheep for many years. She has her own flock of Teeswater sheep and her family also have Wensleydales. Melissa was Champion Young Handler at the Royal Norfolk Show in 2006, and has been successful in classes at the Suffolk, Hadleigh, Wayland and Aylsham Shows. With her bursary award she plans to purchase more rare breed sheep.

Continued.....

**Daniel Starkings, Clippesby, Norfolk, 2 years old.** Daniel has been involved with sheep since a baby and is already seen handling sheep at the local shows. He has already learnt that whatever happens, you do not let go of the halter! With his bursary money he plans to purchase a lamb of his own to bring on for showing.

**The RBST East Anglia Support Group**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Young Handlers' Workshop at Stonham, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

Just occasionally an event turns out to be even better than one could imagine and at the end of the day everyone is left with a real 'buzz', and looking forward to the next one!

So it was with the Young Handlers' Workshop held in April at Stonham during the Mid Suffolk Show. Despite a gloomy weather forecast, and a frantic re-erecting of marquees following a freak storm 24 hours earlier, the rain held off and wet weather plans remained unneeded.



For much of the day our Young Handlers were divided into two groups: junior and senior, but the first task of the day involved all our youngsters, from 2 to 14 years, having to spot the (deliberate!) faults when Dameon and Philippa gave a demonstration of how not to handle your sheep in the show ring. The youngsters offered helpful suggestions for improvement and the leaders' second attempt at showing their sheep in the ring was much improved.



The senior group then spent the morning improving their practical skills: a trailer was requisitioned from Lindsay's parents and youngsters dealt with sheep from arrival at a show to handling in the ring. Our younger members were kept busy putting halters on and off, after untangling deliberate knotty problems, and playing games such as "Judge's Footsteps", where we tried to creep up, sheep in hand, on the Judge (Tim) whilst his back was turned. However, as soon as he turned around, sheep and handlers had to remain perfectly still. Not as easy as it sounds when you are leading someone else's sheep.

Over a picnic lunch break Young Handlers and their parents tackled a quiz, answers were discussed after lunch. There was just time for more ringcraft and handling skills before we concluded the workshop with our own in-house show classes. The junior handlers went first, with the older, more able older handlers assisting them in the ring. It was great to watch as these competent and willing youngsters helped their younger counterparts. The older handlers had been listening well, though the majority of them are already quite experienced handlers in their own right, assisting with their families' flocks on a regular basis. Every youngster received a rosette and the bursary cheques were awarded at the end of the day. Special mention must be made to Lindsay Compton, whom our Judge deemed to have shown exceptional skill during our show.



It was a memorable day. Special thanks must go to the leaders: Tim Lugsden, who took on the role of Judge for the day and was such a 'hit' with all the children that as one mum put it...."Can't we have Tim judging all the Young Handlers classes from now on?!" Grateful thanks too to Dameon Layt and Philippa Sprake who led the

senior handlers throughout the day and managed to squeeze more into the day than anyone really thought possible. Mention must also be made of the Support Group members who willingly brought sheep and then stayed on for the whole day to fill the need for extra pairs of hands, and all the parents who stayed and joined in the day and helped – this really was a team effort and an enjoyable day for us all. It is fair to say that the "big people" had just as much fun as the "young people", and that following on from the success and fun of this workshop, we hope to hold another one next year....same time....same place!

**The Mid Suffolk Show**  
**Stonham, April 2008**

In addition to the Young Handlers' Workshop, the Support Group staged a static display of rare breed sheep. Our display included examples of Balwen, Greyfaced Dartmoor, Norfolk Horn, Llanwenog, Herdwick, Ryeland, Wensleydale, Oxford Down, Southdown and Whitefaced Woodland – these generated much interest, judging by the constant flow of members of the public through our rare breeds area.

The merchandise wagon was present too and our thanks must go to all those willing support group members who found the time to bring along animals, and in some cases, stay for the entire day. Time is precious and your support is much appreciated.

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**For Sale & Wanted**

**Baylham Rare Breeds** have surplus Llanwenog and Norfolk Horn sheep for sale. Please ring Richard, Ann or Neil on (01473) 830264

**Tamworth weaners** for sale, ready now. Telephone Mrs Charles Buchan 01692 403874 (Norfolk)

Adrian Glen, Sapiston, near Bury St. Edmunds. Telephone: 07956 464451 or (01359) 269555 is offering 6 acres of fenced paddocks with mains water troughs, free of charge for rare breeds to graze. It also has stabling that is not being used.