I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you warmly to the new British Llama Society.

Restructure of British Camelids is now complete. It has divested itself of all breed society functions and will concentrate on health, welfare, and education issues for the camelid community as a whole. All paid up members of BCA have been enrolled automatically into BAS or BLS depending on their recorded breed interests. Accordingly you now have membership of the British Llama Society until January 2007 when annual renewal notices will be issued.

It is an exciting and seminal moment in the progression of the British llama community and we are looking forward to developing a host of llama-orientated activities and interests - educational, sociable and fun! For the guanaco community there is a new opportunity to develop your own grouping and to be represented and financed through BLS.

Starting afresh, we wish to revitalise and promote regional groupings to try to maximise participation wherever you live and whether you have a couple of llamas or a whole herd! We wish also to encourage interest-focused initiatives bringing together members who have, for example, a similar interest in spinning and knitting, or in organised llama walks, or in charitable fund-raising activities, etc...

We plan to take increasing advantage of electronic media to develop a much more informative and interactive website with a members-only area and to maximise the use of email for instant, low cost communications. Currently we are discussing also a joint magazine venture with BAS.

With this new beginning, however, comes a series of challenges. For many years within BCA we benefited from the support and work of the energetic and ambitious alpaca community. Now we are a more focused breed society, but considerably smaller and leaner too! Without the involvement of our members, we cannot flourish. It is not only a question of help, but support - support for those that do make such an effort to provide a wide variety of events, educational and social, serious and fun. This will not be the first appeal you have seen for members to come forward, and perhaps in the past you have thought of doing so... intended to do so... but did not quite get around to it.... Now is the time! Every bit of help and support will count and be extremely welcome!

It is our desire that the new BLS should be a friendly, active and communicative Society. It is your Society, so do please be involved, and if you have any ideas or concerns, do let us know.

With kind regards
Paul Rose, Chairman (chairman@BritishLlamaSociety.org)
Fibre Fun

On various occasions in years gone by BCA appealed for members to shear their llamas and provide fibre for a cooperative venture. The appeals always failed! But no, I'm not going to repeat the suggestion here!

Yet every time I attend a social gathering of owners, invariably one or more will have brought along some truly lovely or useful items that they have made with their llama fibre. The lesson, it seems to me, is that whilst members do not want to go down the route of a large-scale formal fibre initiative they do get a lot of pleasure in pursuing their own, smaller scale initiatives. And this cottage industry approach does seem far more suited to the scale of the llama community and the diversity of interests within it.

So what we would like to explore, therefore, is the opportunity for like-minded members to share this interest with each other, and to promote it to the membership as a whole, by starting an informal fibre group or forum. Whether you spin, knit, weave or felt and whether it is purely for your personal pleasure, or as a paying hobby or as a business, we hope that you will participate in sharing with us

Llamarabilia

Do you make or design llama-related items, such as greetings cards, portraits, jewellery, badges, photos on products, llama halters and kit, t-shirts, souvenirs etc etc. Would you be interested in meeting up with like-minded members to pool ideas? Or do you want to promote your designs/products to the membership? If the answer to either, or both, is yes then do please contact: Don Butler, donbutler@dba-aviation.com

information about what you are doing with llama fibre. Even if it is only by submitting photos and info for articles.

The swapping of ideas, techniques, experiences... helping and encouraging novices, showing other members what can be done and, if there is a financial dimension, the opportunity to promote your enterprise is a key element of an organisation such as ours.

It may be that if enough members are interested then fibre workshops could be organised and stands taken at shows, fibre events etc to present members achievements.

If fibre fun is your thing, or might become so, beginner or knitter extraordinaire, do contact Fiona Davis who has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this initiative - fiona.j.c.davis@bristol.ac.uk

Walking with Llamas

What better way to enjoy a day out than going walking with llamas? Perhaps you already do it with your llamas around your home? Collectively our membership of owners and trekking organisations present a wonderful opportunity to see the British countryside at its best and experience the pleasure of walking with llamas and with like-minded enthusiasts.

If you know good walking routes, perhaps a hostelry (or two) en route, and would like to organise the occasional llama walk for members around your area then do let us know of your plans and we will help publicise them and, if required, advise concerning practical details. Our trekking organisation members know well the bye-laws, rules, regulations and code to be followed.

Here are a couple of contacts:

Chris Eke & Jo Harrereaves - jo@ukllamas.co.uk
Mary Pryse - mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

And if you would be happy to act as the link in your area, please let us know that too! Whether just as a social activity for members, a fund-raising venture for charity, or as a commercial hobby or business, please share your interest in Walking with Llamas with the BLS membership.

Sunday 2nd July offers a perfect opportunity to come walking with llamas when Henry and Ordell Safran will be holding their traditional annual walk and picnic in Windsor Park. All are very welcome, with or without llamas. Contact ordell.safran@btinternet.com

Working with Llamas

The more we learn, the more we realise there is to learn! It’s an old adage and just as true for llamas as for anything else - indeed, especially important for living creatures for which we have undertaken responsibility to look after.

Husbandry and training, basic and advanced will be at the forefront of our plans for the BLS. Information sheets, workshops, conferences organised with BCL etc.

Watch this space and let us know if would like to contribute in any way.
DOING IT THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WAY

It was cloudy, drizzly and dull in the East Midlands on Sunday 7th May but the weather was perfect for trekking in the West Midlands, dry, sunny and pleasantly warm. This was a new venue for members in the central region and it proved a great success. Members came from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Cheshire and Powys and of course, Staffordshire. Most journeys took only a couple of hours and we all reckoned we would do it much quicker another time as the last few miles were the longest! Christine Armstrong, our host, lives in a wonderful old farmhouse with masses of outbuildings down a long drive, down a long lane, in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by fields. It’s a glorious setting. The West Midlands is not all factories and smoke, they have some of the finest farmland in England and have a long tradition of country pursuits and now llama trekking can be added to the list.

Christine had planned to take us on a 5 mile trek that normally takes her around two hours. Trekking with 20 llamas and probably 30 people, takes a little longer so she confidently guided us round a shortened route taking in woodland, country lanes (great learning opportunity for llamas) bringing us back along the South Staffordshire Way that conveniently runs along the side of her property taking us through fields of young corn.

The views were wonderful, not only for us admiring the scenery but also for the delighted onlookers as they beheld the sight of all these llamas, not what they had expected to see on their Sunday out.

BYO picnic lunch was the order of the day and we all sat in the sunshine in the garden to enjoy it and had more time for talking. The llamas were all turned out in the yard together, alongside Christine’s herd of a stud male, three pregnant females and three crias. There was no anti-social behaviour (or inappropriate) and when it was time to catch them to go home, they were all caught easily.

A big thank you to Christine for providing us with such a perfect venue, we will be back! Another vote of thanks to the members who came, it was great meeting you all, your animals are lovely and I hope that after the Mere Hall trek they will be looking forward to the next outing: Sunday 23rd July at Manor Farm for the Fun Day and Show on the Notts/Leics border. Details from Brian Haughton 0775 2206481 e-mail: brian_haughton@hotmail.com

Lynn Barrett and friends taking part in their local carnival in Corfe Mullen, Dorset

Members at the Builth Wells Show hold a surprise 50th birthday party for BCA Honorary Treasurer Allen Brown.
OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE
Mary Pryse writes about Henry

Henry was our first llama. We bought him in February 1995 to be a guard llama for my herd of Angora goats. He was 2 years old and gelding who had been born on a farm in Somerset, then bought by Orwell Saffron who later sold him to me. He had never seen goats before but he became their trusted guardian after only 5 days of being on the farm. He would herd them into the barn when it rained and herd the kids out to their mothers when they woke up hungry and even allowed them to use him as a climbing frame.

jumping onto his back when he was lying down trying to have a quiet rumination. He had been halter trained before we bought him and we often took him out for walks and attended all the Association events we could get to. We soon taught him to carry a pack that allowed us to enter more classes when we attended shows. Henry won many prizes in gelding, pack and obstacle classes and was awarded Reserve Champion Gelding at the BCA Show in 1998 and again in 2000. I taught him to work in harness and drove him a little, but have to confess that he really hated it so I did not pursue it.

Our walks to the local pub (he even went in the bar) attracted much media attention and he not only appeared in all the local press but was soon hitting the big time in the Nationals. Local television picked this up and led us into more appearances and he became quite a star.

Our intention was only ever to have one llama, but Henry was such fun and once we discovered how easy llamas were to keep, we simply had to have some more. Three years later we had 11 llamas and decided it was time for them to earn their keep and so we began trekking commercially. We had managed to buy Hector and George, two of Henry’s half brothers and they were our first trekkers along with a young home bred boy, Crofter. Our first trek took place in July 1998. My 3 boys were 5 years old and had spent two years getting to know every hazard that might crop up on a trek and would be led by even the most nervous person. As each new boy came along to join the team, I knew that Henry’s calm and confident presence would teach them more than I could.

Henry was always a great favourite with children, even though he would try to evade being herded into the barn when it was time to go to work, once caught and haltered he was always the consummate professional. At the early age of 7 years we noticed that Henry was starting to go down on his pasterns, he had not had any trauma to his ankle joints and certainly didn’t carry too much body weight so we came to the conclusion with our vet that it was a hereditary trait. We kept a close eye on the condition and by the time he was 10 years old retired him from trekking. As his pastern got lower, he would compensate by becoming buck kneled and his hind legs needed to camp under to keep his balance. He was still very sprightly and in good condition otherwise, but we knew that one day when his pasterns finally were on the ground he would get continuous infections in them and would have to be put down.

Although he had retired from trekking he did continue, on occasions, to take children around the farm on our on-farm treks. These only lasted an hour and were on grass so he could manage them very well. He was the perfect choice for a party of children as he was so gentle with them and did exactly what they asked him to do and he enjoyed taking part.

During the recent hot weather I noticed that he was struggling a bit and lying down more than usual. I talked to him every day and checked to see that he was moving around and eating, but one morning I arrived to find him in the stable lying on the muck pile (so un-llama like) and struggling to breathe. He was obviously very weak and we did not hesitate for one minute in what we needed to do. We loaded him into our trailer and I think for a few minutes he thought he might be off to a show, he always loved the trailer. A short journey to our vet’s equine centre and he was very quietly and gently put to sleep.

We will miss him, he was our first llama, the one who taught us so much. He helped to teach our young llamas about trekking and gave hundreds of people a truly wonderful experience when they came to Catanger. Our dear boy has faded away but his memory will never will.

GALA—The Guanaco, Alpaca & Llama Advertiser

DYFI VALLEY LLAMAS have the following animals for sale:
1 Proven Stud male, 3 Females with crias at foot (2 males, 1 female), 1 Female due to calve, 2 Adult females (1 recently covered) and 3 Yearling females.

We have been breeding quality llamas for the past 18 years. For details of these animals and to arrange to see them, please contact either Michael or Angela Balchin. Tel: 01650 511659 (Powys) or email: gartheiniog@amserv.com

FEMALE LLAMA FOR SALE
One white yearling female llama for sale. Friendly and halter trained. Mara Farina Tel: 07855 058932 e-mail: marafarina@yahoo.co.uk

MACHINERY FOR SALE
MF135 Tractor, original with safety cab, good tyres, 2,850hrs only. £3,950. Teagle 510 topper. 5ft 10" cut. £450. 12ft mounted folding harrow. £350. Lot for £4,500.
Call David Pryse on 07860 378532 / 01295 768676. (Catanger Llamas, Midlins, near M40 J10)

BRITISH CAMELIDS CONFERENCE
Sunday 15 October 2006
at Ashdown Forest Llama Park, Forest Row, East Sussex
Speaker: Pat Long DVM. Pat Long is one of the most experienced camelid vets in the USA. He has screened over 20,000 alpacas in South America and often works with Eric Hoffman. Booking details will be available in the near future from Jane Brown.

Nick Weber presents Rodney Newth with the Benevides Trophy at the AGM

SHOW RESULTS – SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW
Supreme Champion: Cilla (Bluecaps Farm)
Reserve Supreme Champion: Alfredo (Ashdown Llama Park)
Champion Gelding: Robin (Ashdown Llama Park)
Reserve Champion Gelding: Tom (Ashdown Llama Park)
Information, Communication &.... Sponsorship

Many BCA documents, leaflets, information sheets etc, produced over the past decades need revising and updating. We have already produced a temporary BLS leaflet for giveaway at this Summer’s Shows (copy enclosed), but time constraints did not allow for much change or innovation and we do wish to completely revamp it for next year. We plan also to produce a new information pack for new members. It would help enormously with the cost if there are any members out there who might consider sponsoring some of our publications – perhaps the company you work for, or own, would like to do this: it does not need to be llama-related. If your company produces widgets, offers services that might be of interest to members..., then you might like to put your company’s logo and name as sponsor on, for example, the membership pack or Society leaflet. Maybe you cannot be the sponsor but perhaps raising sponsorship funds is your forte? If you fit either bill, please contact Paul Rose in the first instance.

Regional participation

One of the difficulties BCA always faced was the perception - or fact - of it being largely a south based organisation. A classic Catch 22 scenario. Most volunteers for Council came from the south, so meetings were held in the south which meant that the occasional volunteer from the north had huge distances to travel and ultimately could not commit the time or expense... Activities such as the Association Show would be held in the south because most of the active members – it was perceived – live down South! There are two routes we wish to pursue to try to break this cycle:

Firstly we are looking at videoconferencing via the internet for committee meetings. This is now not only perfectly possible but it is neither complicated nor expensive to set up and would offer a cheap and easy way for members to participate in ‘business’ meetings wherever they are based. No travel time, no travel costs. Admittedly not the same as being in the same room but possibly a viable solution nevertheless!

So far as being involved in activities is concerned, we would like to develop a more active regional system. This is not new to us; BCA developed some organisation along those lines but it can be applied differently. It is not merely a question of regional members getting together for regional socials (although that is important too). If we can organise a comprehensive regional base then even national activities can be organised through it. When a Society Show is planned, for example, the regions could participate as regions and attendance could be drummed up via the regional organisers (or committees) rather than just from the national Secretary’s office. Inter-region competitions could be included etc. At some point in the not too distant future the Steering Committee hopes to send out a comprehensive questionnaire so that we can get a better overview of the membership and its wishes. A great idea in theory but will anyone fill it in? Hopefully our regional co-ordinators will be the secret weapon in drumming up support, getting members involved... Of course ultimately it does not matter what initiatives we instigate, if the members do not participate they will fail.

Liz Butler has gallantly volunteered to co-ordinate this and we will keep you posted. If you would be interested in running, being involved in organising your region, or just participating in regional activities, please do contact Liz to help set the ball rolling. Liz is at llamaliz@hotmail.com.

Recruiting new members...

Your continued support of BLS is the lifeblood of the Society, and the enrolment of new members the safeguard of its future. We know that there are many llama owners out there who are not but could - should be members! If you know any non-member who has llamas, is interested in having them, or is simply an enthusiast, do please invite them to join us. Either send names and addresses to Jane Brown for her to mail out leaflets or better still ask Jane for a supply of leaflets to give out yourself. If you put your name in the ‘presented by...’ box and return them duly completed we will either waive the membership joining fee or, if you prefer, re-imburse it to you.
BLS Contacts

By all means send any ideas or queries to the Society Secretary (Secretary@BritishLlamaSociety.org) who will field them as appropriate, or choose from the list below...

**Chairman:** Paul Rose  
Tel: 01363 866056  
e: chairman@BritishLlamaSociety.org

**Don Butler**  
(S.C. & Llamarambilia)  
Tel: 01737 823375  
e: donbutler@dba-aviation.com

**Liz Butler**  
(Regional Co-ordinator)  
Tel: 01737 823375  
e: llamaiz@hotmail.com

**Fiona Davis**  
(Working with Fibre)  
Tel: 01495 774746  
e: fiona.j.c.davis@bristol.ac.uk

**Phil Davis**  
(Re-homing)  
Tel: 01495 774746  
e: fiona.j.c.davis@bristol.ac.uk

Who’s missing from this list? Perhaps you are! Please contact us to add your name to helpers, advisers and organisers! And apologies if you have been inadvertently left out!

**Una Dawes**  
(Guanaco representative)  
Tel: 01491 572416

**Maggie Dilley**  
(S.C.)  
Tel: 01732 700672  
e: richard.stoakes@btopenworld.com

**Chris Eke**  
(Trekking & husbandry contact, South/South West)  
Tel: 01308 866874  
e: jo@ukllamas.co.uk

**Gwyneth Hogger**  
(S.C.)  
Tel: 01473 785529  
e: fynvalley@ghogger.fsnet.co.uk

**Linda Johnson**  
(S.C., Registration)  
Tel: 01825 712040  
e: linda@llamapark.co.uk

**Yvonne Parfett**  
(S.C.)  
Tel: 07971 377993  
e: ysvilamas@yahoo.co.uk

**David Pryse**  
(S.C., BCA Displays & re-homing)  
Tel: 01295 768676  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

**Mary Pryse**  
(Trekking & husbandry contact, Midlands)  
Tel: 01295 768676  
e: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

**Ornell Safran**  
(S.C.)  
Tel: 01344 885857  
e: ornell.safran@btinternet.com

**Acting Secretary:** Jane Brown  
Puckptits Farm, Tredington, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4NH  
Tel: 01608 661893  
e: secretary@BritishLlamaSociety.org

**Llama & Guanaco Registrar:**  
Rodney Newth  
The Old Laundry, Tiringham, Newport  
Pagnell, Bucks MK16 9ES  
Tel: 01908 610698  
e: registrar@BritishLlamaSociety.org

**Acting Treasurer:** Allen Brown  
Tel: 01608 661893  
e: treasurer@BritishLlamaSociety.org

---

Diary Dates

**Walk in Windsor Park**  
**Sunday 2nd July**  
e: ornell.safran@btinternet.com  
tel: 01344 885857

**Kent County Show**  
**Friday 14 to Sunday 16 July**  
Llama & Alpaca Classes  
Linda Johnson: 01825 712040  
e: linda@llamapark.co.uk

**Cranleigh Show**  
**Sunday 6 August**  
Llama Classes  
Contact: Pam Walker  
Tel: 01400 865004

**Edenbridge & Oxted Show**  
**Sunday 27 and Monday 28 August**  
Llama Classes. Pam Walker as above, Liz Butler 01737 823375

**Moreton-in-Marsh Show, Glos**  
**Saturday 2 September**  
Display only, Llamas & Alpacas  
Jane Brown Tel: 01608 661893

**Henley Show**  
**Saturday 9 September**  
Display only  
Una Dawes - Tel: 01491 572416

**Newbury Show**  
**Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 September**  
Display only  
David Pryse Tel: 01295 760542  
david@llamatrekking.co.uk

**Manor Farm Fun Day & Show**  
**Sunday 23rd July**  
East Midlands. Notts/Leics border.  
Brian Haughton 0775 2206481.  
e: haughton_brian@hotmail.com

**Social**  
**Sunday 29th October**  
Puckptits Farm, Tredington, Warks.  
Q & A's/problem solving/fibre/lunch and more. Jane Brown 01608 661893  
e: jane.p.brown@btinternet.com

---

**BCA Stands**

2nd September  
Moreton in Marsh Show, Glos.

9th September  
Henley on Thames Show

16th & 17th September  
Newbury Show, Berks

---

Charity Links

BLS will be supporting health, welfare and education initiatives through the British Camelids charity - 10% of all membership subscriptions will go to the charity. Nevertheless, we will support individual initiatives, perhaps, for example...

- Project Peru  
www.projectperu.org.uk

- WaWa  
via www.quipucrafts.co.uk

If you have ideas or suggestions please let us know.

---

Tailpiece

We trust that this first BLS missive gives you some positive flavour of the hopes & aspirations we have for an active British Llama Society, aiming to reach out to all our members with a view to having fun and fulfilment with llamas. If you are already an active supporter, our grateful thanks. If not, then we look forward to hearing from you!