I would like to begin by thanking Tina O'Donnell for so gallantly taking on, and relieving me of, the editorship of this newsletter. I have greatly enjoyed putting it together in its current and past formats but it is time for a fresh approach so do please give her lots of support, especially by keeping up a good flow of articles, ideas, news and views...

In the last newsletter I mentioned the proposed development of the Breeders directory into a more comprehensive Enterprise Directory, with an opportunity for members to have a free entry. The idea has been well received in principle but by no means all members with suitable llama-related interests and enterprises have yet taken up the offer of the free (or enhanced, paid for) entry. So if you own llamas and run a B&B or hotel, or trekking centre, or are a breeder, or supplier of related products and services (anything from handicrafts to shearing and foot-trimming services to halter supplies) then I hope you will include your entry. The Directory will not only provide a useful window for your activities, but also will be of great interest to members and non-members alike. The Directory will be posted on our website to reach the widest possible market, and the first paper edition will appear with the next newsletter.

In January our retiring Secretary and Treasurer came down to Devon and handed over the main body of work to our new officers, Eion and Paula Hanley (Treasury) and Brenda Birmingham (Secretary). Their contact details will be found on the main contacts page. Transfer of the Registry to Vivienne Ives will take place soon. So, once again, my thanks to all concerned for their past and future contributions.

Progress continues to be made in restructuring of the regions and arrangements for the first BLS National Show, which will take place in September, and also continue apace. More details of both will be found within these pages.

By now you will have received your renewal form for 2007 membership and if you have already renewed, our thanks. It, like me, you are rather hasty in your form filling then do please accept this gentle reminder as a catalyst to get the job done and ensure you remain on our list for future newsletters, society activities and of course your all-important vote at the AGM etc. The venue for the AGM is now confirmed as the Jersey Pavilion at the Royal Showground. For future AGMs we would like to consider some more interesting alternatives so that the event can be combined with a more social occasion. If you have a suggestion for a well-placed and interesting venue for 2008, it is not too soon to let us know now!

As I hope everyone will by now be aware, the steering committee is due to stand down "en masse" at the AGM so that a new committee can be formally and democratically elected (or duly enrolled if there are not more applicants than places). At the time of writing this for the newsletter, the deadline for committee applications is not yet upon us, so I do not have precise details but there will most certainly be a number of places for new committee members. Indeed "new blood" is very much needed so if you are interested in furthering the work of the Society, do please stand. On a personal note you may know that our llama herd has been struck by an extremely virulent attack of bovine tb. The need to devote an immense amount of time and energy in dealing with the repercussions have led me to decide, most reluctantly, that it is impractical for me to offer to serve on the new committee, at least for the near future, so I shall not be standing for re-election.

I do hope that I will see many of you at the AGM, but either way may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, successful and very healthy 2007.

Paul Rose
chairman@BritishLlamaSociety.org

Hi Guys,

Well here it is – the birth of my first newsletter!

It has been quite an interesting learning curve for me, never having done anything remotely constructive on the computer. The size of my computer knowledge is basically emails and eBay! It’s about time I put the computer to some good use.

I have some ideas for the newsletter, including a beautiful baby (cria) competition, (details in next edition), members profiles, show reports etc., etc. Hopefully by then some babies will have been born.

I would like to ask all you lovely members to send me as many articles, photos, news, queries or whatever, as basically, without an input from you, there wouldn’t be a newsletter and that would be a great shame. I have always enjoyed reading other llama owners stories and I’m sure I’m not the only one.

We can also learn from other peoples experiences – good or bad. I will be sitting here waiting to be bombarded! Emails and letters by the sackful! Oh what joy!

Thank heavens the days are drawing out now and the weather hopefully improving. Gives us a chance to take our lovely llamas for walks, and of course the showing season will soon be upon us. I always enjoy the shows – it’s so nice to meet up with other llama owners and swap stories, and gives us the chance to parade our little darlings around and let them show themselves off. Quite nice winning prizes too! Looks so good on the llama’s CV!!

That’s all for now. Until the next time!

Lots of llama love,

Tina

editor@BritishLlamaSociety.org
Llama and guanaco register

After running the Association/Society register of llamas, guanacos and crossbreds since it was transferred from a card index system to a computerised data base system some seven years ago it is with mixed feelings that I write my last “registrar’s” notes for this newsletter.

It will be a relief that I no longer have to process data entry, producing invoices etc., but this is tinged with sadness that I will no longer have the excuse of checking on the detail of a registration to ‘phone the very many members that I have come to know so well over the years.

I am delighted to be passing the register onto Vivienne Ives who I am sure will spot all the things that I have not done that I should have done.

Three of the more important jobs in running a breed society are membership communication including active local groups, the breed register and breed standards and promoting the breed (of in our case the species) to the public. BCL set a standard for all camelid owners as a members club. BLS members should be proud to inherit the best of the llama traditions and ethos of BCL and to build on the development that was so rudely interrupted by the 2001 foot and mouth epidemic.

I am sure that Vivienne will re-commence the development of the register into a proper herd book with ancestry and other information available to all members “on line”. Registration on line is also an important area to explore as well as forming links with llama registries on the continent.

The details of the handover, contact numbers etc will be included in a loose-leaf insert in this newsletter. We will also be sending a schedule to members listing their registered llamas/guanacos and asking them to confirm or update their details.

Some members have not registered their animals or only part of their herd is recorded. Please make 2007 the year in which all members animals are registered, transfers recorded and ways explored to enable non-members (at a price) to have their llamas entered onto the register.

More at the AGM.

Rodney Newth

by now hopefully the ex-registrar.

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BLS First Annual Event

15 September – Sunday 16 September

The Royal County of Berkshire Show, on 7 February at 11am, would be a fantastic venue and opportunity to create maximum impact and publicity for BLS.

The basis of the arrangement is:

1) BLS to provide 50+ animals to be on-site for both days (adjacent to the “Countryside Area”). Fulfilment of this will require a great deal of support and commitment from the BLS membership!

2) Full veterinary cover would be provided 24/7 by the Honorary Vets

3) Free overnight camping facilities, vehicle and trailer parking and BBQ facilities would be provided (circa 100yds from llama show area)

4) A tent/marquee of 60ft x 40ft would be provided free of charge and a show ring of similar size would be provided

5) Adequate penning (crowd control barriers) would be provided free of charge

6) BLS to provide third party liability cover to the value of £5m (which is normal) and provide a certificate.

7) Adequate bio-security measures to be put in place by the Newbury Show Committee

8) Vehicle movement restrictions to be imposed between 08.00 and 18.00. If you can only attend for one day this is okay provided the movement restriction times are adhered to.

9) BLS to provide llama displays and some commentary during both days. A selection of animals to form part of the final parade in the main arena each day. Llama trekking display, spinning display, fibre displays, etc be provided by BLS

10) Competition for “Best display board” and possibly some show classes if enough support. (Newbury Show Committee to provide Rosettes) Obstacle race, carting with llamas demonstration, etc to be included.

BLS needs your support to make this a success. This is your Society and you have told us you want a BLS show. Please bring your animals and have a good social weekend at one of England’s major Shows. Please pledge your support by contacting either David Pryse or Jane Brown (See contacts page). Let them know how many animals you want to bring; what displays or events you want to participate in; what assistance you are prepared to offer. Let’s make this a great weekend for llamas owners.

Allen Brown
New EU Transport Regulations

On 5 January 2007, new European Union Regulations came into force relating to the transportation of animals, including camelids.

You are affected by these new rules if you transport animals more than 65 km (approximately 40 miles) in connection with an economic activity.

'The Regulation applies to all those involved with the transport of vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity. For example, livestock and equine hauliers, farmers, animal breeders, performing animal transporters and those working at markets, assembly centres and slaughterhouses. It would not apply to individuals who ride for pleasure who transport their own horses, or to individuals taking their own pets on holiday.'

Transporter authorisation will be valid for five years. 'Long-journey authorisation' is required for journeys over 65 km taking over 8 hours or 'short-journey authorisation' for journeys over 65 km but taking less than 8 hours.

Further information and application forms are available from the Defra website. www.defra.gov.uk/animalwelfare/farmed/transport/eu-transportreg.html

and there is a useful summary on the NFU website www.nfuonline.com/x12694.xml?action=preview

In England, Scotland and Wales, transporter authorisations are available from the State Veterinary Service (SVS) (0845 603 8395) and in Northern Ireland, they are obtainable from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) (028 9052 4950)

Information kindly supplied by BAS.

Llama fibre.

The easiest way to process llama fibre is to learn to spin it yourself. The Weavers, Spinners & Dyers Guild is the best place to start www.wsd.org.uk as they have guilds all over the UK so there will be one near you. You will find members delighted to help the complete novice and may even lend you equipment to try before deciding if you want to buy your own spinning wheel. Guilds are the best contact to find second hand wheels and equipment. They have publications where you will find adverts for residential courses for all aspects of fibre processing which is an excellent way of getting off to a flying start. If handcraft is not your thing then there are hand spinners who will spin your fibre for you commercially. However, they usually charge £10/100 gms which at £100 per kilo is rather expensive.

Blended llama fibres

If you only have a couple don't despair - blend and when the tan spots produce a beautiful mushroom pink colour. If you have some black fibre (or silver grey brown) try differing proportions of white with it and create wonderful shades of grey. White fibre can be blended with light tan to produce creamy colours and with fawn to give beige shades. Try a mixture of several shades of brown with a little white and get a strawberry roan.

Mary Pryse
Catanger Llamas

We appreciate some of you may be put off by the fact that you have to bring your llamas in on the Thursday and they may not leave until Sunday afternoon and this may make a problem in caring for the animals, but there are people on site who will be more than happy to help out.

If you have any queries, please contact me, Tina O'Donnell on 01892 785119 or email bluecaps@tiscali.co.uk

KENT COUNTY SHOW
13/14/15 JULY 2007

This is an appeal to members to please support this show.

It is a good fun show, which, apart from the normal type of classes held, also has classes for Suri and Suri crosses, plus pack classes. A pack demonstration is held twice daily on the Friday and Saturday. At the moment this show is supported by Ashdown, Bluecaps and Nutfield Park with the odd member here and there. We desperately need your support, because without entries, there are no classes and we really want to promote our fantastic llamas to the public. There is also the chance to win a trophy with the Championship if you want anymore persuasion. It would be really sad if the llama classes were dropped totally.
A LLAMA WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Bluecaps Llama Trekking Farm has been conducting walks and treks for some 4 years now and we have had every sort of enquiry imaginable (I thought) until last August. This was definitely a new one on me!

A very nice lady, Janet, telephoned me and was enquiring as to how much and how long the walks were. I explained the different walks we offered starting with our shortest walk which is just 40 minutes. She listened carefully and then decided that she and her friend would opt for the shortest walk after all, as she thought that would probably be long enough. We had a very nice chat about llamas and also horses, as I drive my horse and she also was into carriage driving. After our chat, we then settled on a date and time and then she dropped the bombshell. She said ‘Oh by the way – I should mention that both my friend and myself are disabled. I am in a wheelchair and my friend is on crutches’. Is that ok? I thought about my walk with llamas and how they would cope and decided she was up for it then so was I! We both liked a challenge.

The day arrived and it was pouring with rain so I thought the whole thing probably wouldn’t happen. The phone rang about 9.30 am and sure enough, it was Janet. I said I thought I would hear from her as the weather was so appalling to which she asked ‘Did we still go in the rain?’ I said if she was happy to, then so were we.

They duly turned up for their 11 am walk. I did have a plan, which was that if we took the 2 llamas, Janet could hold one lead and I would hold a lead on the other side. Same thing with Beth on crutches – Beth on one side and Ruth (my helper) on the other. We duly set off and I have to say that both the llamas, Bruce and Teddy, walked along as though they had been doing it all their lives! I was so proud of them, especially Bruce who had to deal with this big pair of wheels running alongside him. Janet and Beth both thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They said they were never put off by bad weather as they had both become those 2 ladies out. They are both so brave and full of fun. It was great being in their company.

On the back of that walk Janet and Beth decided they really would like all their carriage driving friends to come and visit us as they thought everybody would benefit. We were going to have a walk first and then I was to give them a talk on Camelids. This time 6 wheel chairs were to be involved, plus some mentally disabled people, so we thought we had better do some training. We practiced with the llamas using an invalid carriage driving up and down the road. (Ruth and I took it in turns in the carriage!) On the day, disabled people and their carers arrived, complete with mobile loo and everything they needed. Again, everybody was thrilled and the llamas performed brilliantly. Everybody enjoyed the talk and left smiling.

It was another very special day for us and our llamas and hopefully we will see our lovely ladies again in the not too distant future.

Tina O'Donnell
Bluecaps Llamas.
Regional Groups

On the right are details of the co-ordinator for the area in which you live. The co-ordinators have all volunteered (with a bit of gentle persuasion!) to make themselves available as a contact in your area. They will introduce themselves to new members and welcome them into the Society. They will act as a point of contact for information gathering and dissemination. They will also act as a point of contact and / or organiser for regional / local events and to act as ‘cheerleaders’ to encourage participation at events including national and regional Llama Shows.

Over time the regions may change - borders may shift or groups may amalgamate or further divide, according to participation and interest. And of course you should find that your address falls into a different region to that you wish to be most involved with, then by all means ask to be included in the appropriate listing – all members are welcome to be involved in all regions’ activities!

We are still looking for co-ordinators in Scotland and also South East England. If you live in these areas and would like to join the gallant band and get to know the members in your area, please email me.

The Society Committee and the other contacts listed in this newsletter are still here to help you wherever possible but if you have a query and wish to talk to someone regarding llamas, you may find that your co-ordinator is your best first point of contact, especially if, for example, you would like to organise or be involved with a local event. Wherever possible do please use email as it helps costs down.

If your co-ordinator hasn’t contacted you yet, why not contact them and introduce yourself. Offer your help, organise a regional show, or just talk llamas. What better way to meet the owners in your area and be able to talk llamas for as long as you like!

Please help to make this work. You know the old saying ‘use it or lose it’: well if the co-ordinators don’t feel they are of use to the members in their areas they may well give up and that is the last thing we want. If I can be of any assistance to anyone, please contact me on the e-mail address below.

Liz Butler, Regional Groups Organiser, llamaliz@hotmail.com

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NEWS, VIEWS, ARTICLES, QUERIES, COMMENTS AND PHOTOS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

“We would love to hear from you”
editor@BritishLlamaSociety.org

bls news _ march 07 ...........................................................................................................
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FILM STAR LLAMA!

At the end of last summer, Helen Taylor of Saddleworth Llama Trekking Centre and Animal Farm, had a telephone call from Sue Clark, who is an animal coordinator for programmes like Coronation Street, Holly Oaks and has also worked on Billy Elliot and The Full Monty. She was looking for some llamas to feature in the highly popular 60's television programme 'The Royal'.

Here is Helen's story.

Sue Clark wanted llamas for a film scene in 'The Royal' as the story line was about a farm in the 1960's that came down with Anthrax. We made arrangements for the llamas, Romeo, Bandit and Rosa to be collected in a horse box on Sunday 8th October at 5pm.

I had booked a day off school for Frances, my daughter, so she could make the most of the experience. We arrived in Harrogate at a little dairy farm where the llamas were to stay the night in the horse box with security guards looking after them. We were taken to Sue's house in Pontefract, where Frances thought it was great as she met a lot of famous animals. But it was off to bed early, as we had to be up at 4am! As we wandered outside, we found ourselves helping to load six big hunter horses, one very stubborn donkey and twelve chickens. Then load another donkey and goat into a horse trailer that were destined for another film shoot.

Off we went to our film base for 7am, which was a car park, and where we were given a full English breakfast. Back in the horse box and off to the farm. We helped to unload all the horses, donkeys and chickens.

Then we unloaded our llamas, brushed them and put them in an apple orchard.

Very soon I met the director who asked me questions about the llamas and how they would react to different tasks. Next came the actors and I had to show the so-called farmer how to handle a llama. The main part of my morning was familiarizing the llamas with the actors, then diving for cover as the word 'Action' was shouted! The llamas had big fluffy sound microphones and large white boards placed in front of them but were not put off by the experience. They kept kissing the actors and cameramen, who were very brave!

Lunchtime came and we were taken down to base camp in a mini bus and given a lovely meal. But then an assistant came to say we had to dress as 'Extras', as the animals were to be killed and we needed to lead them away. (Well no one had said anything about acting!) We were sent for makeup where the lady was frantic as she said my hair was not 1960s style and what was she expected to do with it! Blonde hair with brown streaks - she said they could put brown mousse on it. Ha!! Saved by the bell, the assistant came back to say we had to wear green hooded suits, black rubber gloves, black over boots and best of all, a gas mask! My only chance on TV and I'm covered head to toe. Great!!

We had to walk the horses out of a field to be killed, followed by the llamas but each scene took something like 20 takes. I could not see, hear or breathe but it was 'Stand by' 'Action' 'Reset' all the time and I was slowly cooking in my suit!

When I thought we were finished, Frances and I went to watch the special effects people get the fire burning for the disposal of the animals. We sat ourselves down to watch, then looked around us to find we had four big gas bottles each side of us with the pipes running to the fire. Ho! Well this is the point where I told myself you have to trust the experts! But the horses kept running around the field in front of filming and they were supposed to be dead! So off we went again, helping to catch horses and move them to another field where they had built wooden sheep pens to put the individual animals in.

Then the filming started again and I had to help the Vets go into the pens to shoot the llamas with a bolt gun. By this time the llamas were really fed up and making lots of humming noises, which the sound effects man thought were great. Poor Rosa was the one that had the close up of a gun to her head and she was brilliant. I had one scene all on my own holding Rosa, waiting for the vet to come in. Frances liked that best.

So that was it. Our filming finished and the Director thanked us, which was very nice. We loaded the llamas, helped to care for the six horses and donkey and catch twelve chickens. We finally arrived home at 9pm exhausted, but what a great day and experience.

The episode is to be screened on October 28th on ITV 1. Be sure not to miss it!
**Suggested Categories:** Accommodation (B & B etc), Breeders*, Courses (Husbandry etc) & Llama Training*, Equipment, Handicrafts, Llamarabilia (Cards, Portraits, T-Shirts etc), Shearers, Trekking*... Or suggest a category *you* would like created for your entry.

*For these categories advertisers will be required to be a signatory to the appropriate Code of Conduct.

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Please Send your details and required category/categories together with your payment as above.
and remittance to: The Society Secretary (See contacts)

### Examples

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| **ACCOMMODATION**<br>The Firs B&B<br>Village Green<br>Village Centre<br>County GH5 6JK<br>Tel: 0567 8978<br>Fax: 0567 9879 | **ACCOMMODATION**<br>The Firs B&B<br>Village Green<br>Village Centre<br>County GH5 6JK<br>Tel: 0567 8978<br>Fax: 0567 9879<br>email: thefirs@aol.com<br>www.thefirs.com | **ACCOMMODATION**<br>The Firs B&B<br>Village Green<br>Village Centre<br>County GH5 6JK<br>Tel: 0567 8978<br>Fax: 0567 9879<br>email: thefirs@aol.com<br>www.thefirs.com | **TREKKING**

The Firs B&B<br>2 hour, half day and full day treks in the glorious local countryside.<n>(See under Accommodation for contact details)

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**BLUECAPS LLAMAS**

**Quality animals for sale**
From our prizewinning herd of llamas. 2 Championships last year. Advice given & follow up sales as required.

**Llama trekking**
Also picnic walks. New this year – cream teas, strawberries and Pimm's, Champagne and chocolates, all taking place in our own private wood with the llamas.

**Llama accessories**
Including various types of halters, packs, training aids etc.

Tina O'Donnell, Bluecaps Llamas, Bluecaps Farm, Coursey Wood, East Sussex TN6 6QX, Tel: 01892 785119/077711663900
www.bluecapsllamas.co.uk

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**The 2007 AGM and Members Meeting will be held on**

**Saturday 31 March 2007**

Starting at 11am

Venue: Jersey Pavilion, The National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

We look forward to welcoming you

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bls news _ march 07 ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Midland Region Events 2007

West Midlands Trek
Sunday 14th May.
Mere Hall, Enville, DY7 5JL
T. Christine Armstrong 07967 637021
E. CARM221@aol.com
Arrive 10.00am BYO picnic. If you need to borrow a llama, let us know, we can lend you one!

Manor Farm Show
Sunday 22nd July
Manor Farm, East Leake, Notts.
Contact: Brian Haughton.
T. 0775 2206491
E. haughtonbrian@hotmail.com

South East Shows 2007

South of England Ardingly Show
6 / 7 May
Judge: Irving Pallister
Show Organiser: Liz Butler

Kent County Show
13/14/15 July
Judge: Irving Pallister
Show Organiser: Tina O’Donnell

Cranleigh Show
5th August
Judge: Clare Hastings
Show Organiser: Liz Butler

Edenbridge and Oxted Show
26/27 August
Judge: George Walker
Show Organiser: Liz Butler

South West

7th May
North Somerset Show
Llama Classes 11.00am
Open for entries now.
Call Norma Chandler: 01454 773533

For Sale

The Duke. 10 year old registered entire male, mainly brown. Produces lovely crias. Please contact Elizabeth Cleaver. T. 01451 820856 or 0207 226 0876

Training

Basic husbandry and early training for new and prospective owners. Safe and responsible trekking for private and commercial trekkers. Contact Mary Pryse, Catanger Llamas. 01295 768676 e. mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

BUSINESSES

FOR SALE

Llyndy Llamas, llama trekking business for sale in Dorset. Full details available at http://www.businessesforsale.com
Search – leisure, Dorset.
Tel.01202 659820
www.llamatrekking.org.uk

A warm welcome to new members

Rosemary Pockett, Felbridge, Surrey.
Andrew Taylor, Liphook, Hants.

Gwyneth Hogger of Fynn Valley Llamas sent in this amazing photo of her llama ‘Del’. I think it would be really good fun if we ran a little competition to see who can come up with the best caption. Email your entry to editor@britishllamasociety.org. Winner to be announced in next Newsletter.