

# Coloured Ryeland News

Welcome to the winter edition of Coloured Ryeland News. I wish you all a fabulous festive season, and a wonderful 2023!

I would like to put out another plea to members for articles for inclusion in the newsletter. If you would like to feature in one in the future, please let me know. Have you created something fabulous with your Coloured Ryeland fleeces? ...If so, I would love to hear from you (contact details below). Please be aware that the deadline for submissions for the next edition will be 20/02/2023.

## Holly Price

Coloured Ryeland Sub Committee			
<b>Chairperson</b>		<b>Vice Chairman</b>	
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## Handicraft Show – The results are in...

Claire Weedall organised another fabulous handicraft show, which once again accepted online entries across a range of classes. Claire had the following to say; 'Huge thank you to all that entered and supported the handicraft show this year and to our judge Dee Tippett (last year's champion) who took the time to go through all of our photos and blind judge our entries'.

Here are the results:

**Class 1 Knitting**

1st Annette Mitchell

2 Ricky Smyth

3rd Claire Weedall



## Class 2 Needle Felting

1st Claire Weedall

2nd Bettina Addington-smith

3rd Ricky Smyth

4th Suzanne Donovan

5th Sarah Ann Whitaker

1



3



4



5

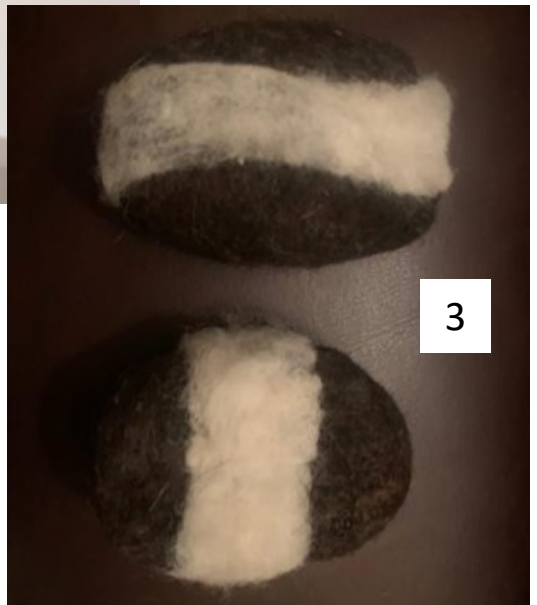


### Class 3 Wet Felting

1st Ricky Smyth

2nd Claire Weedall

3rd Sarah Ann Whitaker





1

**Class 4 Woven**

1st Claire Weedall

2nd Gytha Pickett

3rd Liz Mason

4th Sarah Ann Whitaker



2



3



4

1



### Class 5 Any other woolly craft

1st Rachel Kemp

2nd Ricky Smyth

3rd Claire Weedall

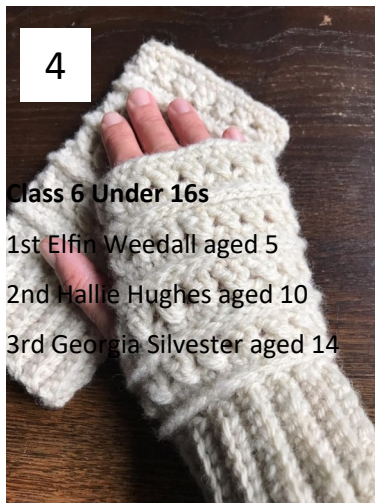
4th Liz Mason

5th Jane Pinches

2



4



### Class 6 Under 16s

1st Elfin Weedall aged 5

2nd Hallie Hughes aged 10

3rd Georgia Silvester aged 14

3



5





**Class 6 Under 16s**

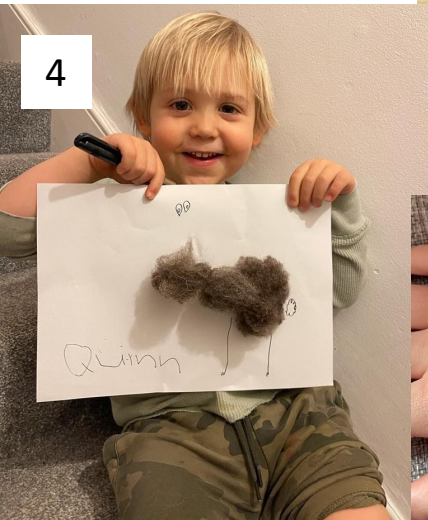
1st Elfin Weedall aged 5

2nd Hallie Hughes aged 10

3rd Georgia Silvester aged 14

4th Quinn Weedall aged 2

5th Skye Hughes aged 6



## Class 7 DIY

1st

John Donovan

2nd

Claire Weedall



**Overall Champion** Claire Weedall's Needle Felted Hare.

## Member's Profile – Harriet Hunt (Dever Flock)

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### Background information

Based in Micheldever in Winchester, I currently have a flock size of 43 including ewes, rams, show lambs and a few surplus meat lambs. I have a mixed flock of Coloured Ryelands which I show, Ryelands, North country Mules, Tex-el crosses and Suffolk x Mule.

### How did you get into Coloured Ryelands?

In 2018 whilst looking for breeds of sheep that I might like to keep, I came across the Southdown. I loved the chunkiness and docile nature and wanted something that would produce a good carcass as I was keen to do native breed meat boxes. However, I had heard mixed reviews about ease of lambing. So, a friend suggested the Ryeland as he said they are docile, easy lambing, great mums, a good tasty carcass on the lambs and have that cute factor. I thought that's the breed for me, and have not regretted it since.





### **When do you plan to lamb?**

I lamb in April due to only having access to cover crop forage that I electric fence in January and February, and limited barn space.

### **What facilities do you have?**

I am very lucky that I discovered the local arable farmers family purchased a couple of Ryelands 3 years ago and we became good friends after I lent them my ram. The Family are very kind and let me use their barn and stables and yard for lambing /shearing /scanning general storage.

### **Do you have any help?**

Yes, lots of help from the above family's children at the weekends and after-school and in the holidays. They are aged 10, 12 and 14. They are all very keen shepherds and shepherdesses and can almost do everything now.

### **Have you ever used sponging or AI?**

I am very lucky to be able to have 3 weeks off work for lambing so don't need to sponge to get them lambing closer together. Where I lamb in April, the ewes are naturally cycling in November anyway.

### **Do you scan?**

Yes, I do! I believe it's very important even if you have a small flock. I separate the singles from the twins and feed the twins/triplets 6 weeks ahead of lambing. I don't feed anything to the singles until they are in the barn 2 weeks before. I don't tend to have massive great lambs that I need to pull from doing this.

### **What proportion do you usually send for meat, and do you eat your own meat?**

I send all of the wether lambs for meat and ewe lambs that aren't correct. All the commercial ewes get tupped by the Ryeland ram and they all go off for meat. I keep a very select few ram lambs and ewe lambs to sell, if they are very special and good breeding. I eat meat that I've produced.

### **When do you shear?**

I shear the show sheep February/March and the rest get sheared in June.

### **What do you do with your wool?**

Occasionally I give the good fleeces to the Hampshire guild and get a couple of balls of wool in return!

### **Describe the preparation routine of your show sheep?**

Firstly, I select the sheep I wish to show and give them a bit of quality feed, but not too much that they get too fat for tugging! Then they get bathed 2 weeks prior to showing. Once dry, I card the sheep 3 times before the show day. Takes me a very long time per sheep as once I start, I can't seem to stop! I use Jakotis to trim off any dirty matted fleece and then go in with carding comb and shears and keep working away until I get the shape I need for



that sheep. I put them up on the stand, so I don't get a bad back.

### **Do you feed hay, haylage or silage? Do you make any?**

I feed Hay only at lambing time. My friends make round bales off the fields for me

### **What concentrates do you feed?**

I feed ewe nuts pre lambing and after lambing, and coarse mix to catch sheep and lambs any other time of year.



### **Health products and routines?**

The sheep get the following routine:

Vaccinations - Heptavac p plus – for ewes 4 weeks prior to lambing and the lambs get it at 3 weeks old and 6 weeks old for booster.

Strike preventors - Ewes will be treated with crovect before shearing and then clik extra 3 weeks after shearing once the wool has grown back a bit. The lambs get clik extra when the ewes are being sheared.

Worming – we only worm the sheep routinely for fluke in autumn and beginning of spring as live near a lot of water. We routinely worm the lambs for Nematodirus at about 6 weeks old as this doesn't show in worm count. The rest of the year we do regular Faecal egg counts.

Mineral drenching – All lambs get Farmsense Maxigrow every six weeks. The ewes get Farm sense nutri max 4 weeks prior to tugging and after lambing.

Foot trimming – we don't trim unless necessary or a tidy up before shows.

Medications – I keep a stock of long-lasting antibiotics, Metacam painkiller and Terramycin blue spray all year round from the vets in case of any foot problems etc.

### **What equipment do you have?**

General Lambing kit	Troughs
Showing kit	Trimming stand
Hurdles	Trailer
Round bale feeders	Many buckets
Small bale feeders	

### **Any other advice for Coloured Ryeland breeders?**

Enjoy them, care for them and have fun and never be afraid to ask fellow members or local sheep farmers for advice. If you're interested in showing have a go! I started last year, and I love it!