



Spot Press

**Bumper
Issue!**

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal



Volume 23 No.1 WINTER 2012/3

Princess To Have Tea With Us And You're Invited!

The Club's Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, will be dropping in to join us for tea at our AGM at Colesbourne Park in Gloucestershire on Saturday 13th April.



The full programme is listed inside and it will be a real treat for all GOSPBC members in this special year. If you're at our Grand Afternoon Tea, there's a very good chance you'll meet the Princess. And if you're having to travel, remember that the following day we're holding a full pig keeping workshop at The Butts Farm near Cirencester so make a weekend of it and stay in the Cotswolds for a GOS event *like no other*.

Spaces are limited to 55 at the AGM so it will be a case of first come, first served **so get your application in early**. A form is enclosed. Don't put it to one side—fill it in and send it off NOW before you forget about it. You don't want to miss this special weekend.

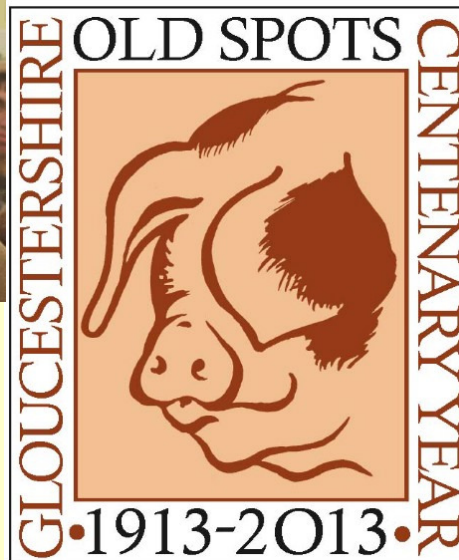
Many breeds have reached their centenary before us but none have celebrated as we will celebrate!

And what a lot we've got to celebrate!

- * The Gloucestershire Old Spots is the oldest pedigree spotted pig breed **in the world**
- * Despite several occasions when it could have become extinct, it has survived and

HRH The Princess Royal keeps her own herd of GOS at her Gloucestershire home, Gatcombe Park, and has been Patron of the GOSPBC since 2009.

Our hosts, Sir Henry & Lady Elwes of Colesbourne Park, have strong family links with the GOS breed. Sir Henry's grandfather was Col Elwes who bred GOS and was Chairman of the GOS Pig Society. His uncle was John Green, also a Chairman of the GOS Pig Society and the National Pig Breeders' Association.



in its centenary year is one of the strongest pedigree breeds in the country

- * An example of the breed, **Foston Sambo 21st**, holds the record for the price paid at auction in the UK - 4000 guineas (*Guinness Book of Records*)
- * The GOS is the only breed of **any species in the world** to be awarded Traditional Speciality Guaranteed status for its meat by the EU Commission as part of the Protected Food Names Scheme. That recognises the consistent quality of its meat products—a **truly unique distinction**

So join us please on April 13th and 14th for the first part of our special celebrations of a very special breed of pig.

IMPORTANT - NEW DATES!

Please note that the date of the AGM is now Sat. 13th April and the Workshop is Sun. 14th April and NOT as previously advised in Spot Press and on the Year Planner!

Inside this issue:

GOSPBC AGM	2-8
GOS Centenary	1-3
GOS Workshop	7-9
Countdown to 3 Counties	10-11
The Village Pig Killer	12-15
News from America	16
Spotlight on Andy Webb	17
Rare Breed Pig Keeping	18-19
Collectible Pigs	20-21
Advertisements	22-23
Back page	24

Club Contacts

- **Secretary—Richard Lutwyche (Glos)** tel 01285 860229 e-mail: mail@oldspots.org.uk
- **President—Dave Overton (Surrey)** tel 01306 627201 e-mail: exspots@btinternet.com
- **Chairman—Andrew Robinson (Derbyshire)** tel 01283 815635 e-mail: argyspot@aol.com
- **Vice-Chairman—Judith Sims (Somerset)** tel 01275 858699 e-mail: judithsims@btconnect.com
- **Treasurer—Stephen Booth (Cheshire)** tel 0161 928 2143 e-mail: broadoakfarm54@btconnect.com
- **Committee—Mandy Garbutt (North Yorkshire)** tel 01609 882773 e-mail: fowgillfarm@hotmail.com
- **Committee—Malcolm Hicks (West Midlands)** tel 01676 533368 e-mail: windmillherd@aol.com
- **Committee—Marlene Renshaw (Lincs)** tel 01507 533209 e-mail: marlene.renshaw@homecall.co.uk
- **Committee—Jonathan Crump (Glos)** tel 01453 821486 e-mail: jonathancrump@btinternet.com
- **Committee—John Lightfoot (Glos)** tel 01452 700510 e-mail: helen.lightfoot@tiscali.co.uk
- **Committee—Allison Littlehales (Shrops)** 01588 650570 e-mail: alittlehales@googlemail.com

Club News

*** Gloucestershire Old Spots' Centenary ***



AGM & Grand Afternoon Tea at Colesbourne Park-Sat 13th April

Sadly, the world-famous snowdrop collection will have finished flowering by the time of our celebratory weekend of 13th and 14th April but there will still be much to see and do.

See Page 8 for maps and booking details. The provisional official timetable for our activities at Colesbourne is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 11.00 | Guests will arrive |
| 11.30 | Annual General Meeting in the Long Room |
| 12.30 | Luncheon – A ploughman's lunch will be provided to be taken in the Long Room or in the garden and summerhouse if fine. |
| 13.30-15.15 | Sir Henry Elwes will conduct a tour of the Arboretum including the church. |
| 15.30 | Her Royal Highness will arrive and will be received by:

Sir Henry Elwes who will present:

Mr David Overton – President
Mr Andrew Robinson – Chairman

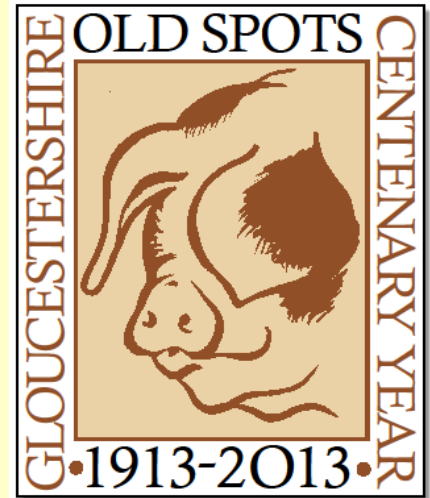
who will present

The Committee Members |
| 15.35 | Mr David Overton will invite Her Royal Highness to the Long Room for tea.

Tea will be at round tables arranged so that Her Royal Highness can circulate amongst members and the President will present table groups. (A spare chair will be at each table.) |
| 16.05 | The President will formally thank Her Royal Highness and offer a small basket of GOS produce.

Her Royal Highness will present Club trophies and may say a few words. |
| 16.15 | The President and Chairman will take leave.

Sir Henry Elwes will escort Her Royal Highness to her car and take leave. |



Our logo to celebrate the centenary will be featured widely. Why not help spread the word by applying to the Secretary for a copy to appear on your website?

DRESS CODE

Smart casual—

Gentlemen - Jacket and Trousers

Ladies - Skirt or Trousers and Top

No jeans or trainers please.

The charge per head for the whole day, including lunch and the Grand Afternoon Tea is £20 (£16 for children under 14 years old).

The charge for the Workshop the following day is £12/head (£10 for children under 14 years).

***Space for both events is limited –
BOOK EARLY or miss out!***

Club News

*** Gloucestershire Old Spots' Centenary ***



Annual General Meeting

At The Long Room, Colesbourne Park, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9NP

By the kind invitation of Sir Henry & Lady Elwes

Saturday 13th April 2013 at 11.30am

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual Report
5. Accounts to 31st October, 2012
6. Election of Officers*
7. Election of Hon Auditor

**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE -
NOW Sat 13th APRIL**

**At Colesbourne Park near
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire**

Richard Lutwyche

Secretary

*Any member wishing to stand for office must request a nomination form from the Secretary and be nominated and seconded by paid-up Club members. Please phone 01285 860229 or email mail@oldspots.org.uk for a form.

The AGM will be followed by an open Forum giving members the opportunity to question members of the Committee and Officers and to make points relevant to the management of the Club.

The Gloucestershire Old Spots Centenary Exhibition at Gloucester Folk Museum

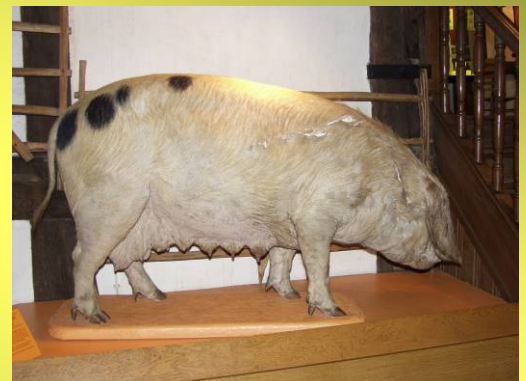
As an insert with this edition, you will find details of an exhibit being staged by the Club to celebrate the breed's centenary at the famous Gloucester Folk Museum in Westgate Street, Gloucester. This runs from February to the end of September with a break in June while we move most of it to the Three Counties Show.

One of the best-loved exhibits at the museum is the stuffed remains of Chedworth Pansy 22nd bred by John Green. The new display is in a dedicated exhibition room and we hope it will be visited and enjoyed by hundreds of visitors during the period.

If you find yourself in the area, do go along and visit the display and talk to other visitors about your involvement with GOS pigs. There are other very interesting rural exhibits at the Folk Museum and you won't find that your time is wasted.

The museum is closed on Mondays.

Entrance is £3.00 for adults, £2.00 for concessions.



Chedworth Pansy 22nd, a prime attraction

Club News - AGM

Annual General Meeting Clevedon Riding Centre, Clevedon, Somerset

By the kind invitation of Mrs Judith Sims

Sunday 22nd April 2012 at 11.30am



MINUTES

Nineteen Club members and family guests were in attendance. The President, Mr Dave Overton, took the Chair.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from: Mesdames Mandy Garbutt, Sally Lugg, Viki Mills, Maria Naylor, Anne Nicholls.

Messrs Stephen Booth, John Corsan, Rupert Everitt, Eric Freeman, D Griffiths, Malcolm Hicks, Guy Kiddy, Andrew Robinson, William Simpson and Oliver Whiteley.

Mr & Mrs John Lightfoot and Mr & Mrs Harold Moss

2 Minutes of the 2011 AGM

These had been circulated in **Spot Press** and were accepted as a true record of proceedings and were signed by the President.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Annual Report

This was published in the current edition of **Spot Press** and the Secretary summarised the contents for the benefit of members present. The report was accepted and forms part of these Minutes.

5 Accounts to 31st October, 2010

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary, took members through the accounts for the period. With no specific fundraising and continuing legal costs over the Bramley Old Spot issue, the Club was fortunate not to have lost more than £318. The accounts were passed unanimously.

6 Election of Officers

Mr Dave Overton & Miss Mandy Garbutt had both expressed the wish to stand for re-election. However, Mrs Anne Nicholls had resigned from the Committee citing family commitments. The Secretary recorded praise for Mrs Nicholls' dedication and wise input to Committee matters during her period on Committee and as Vice-Chairman.

The Secretary read out two nominations for Committee being Mr Jonathan Crump, previously co-opted and Mrs Allison Littlehales. There being no other nominations received, Committee Members were re-elected *en bloc* with the addition of the two persons named.

7 Election of Hon Auditor

Mr Frear was re-elected unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.05pm followed by a detailed discussion on issues surrounding the recent subscription increases and management of the BPA, the new eAML2 and the difficulties being experienced with it and the prospects for shows in 2012.

The AGM was followed by lunch and a tour of the Winterwood herd and a sausage competition for members judged by Gary Wallace.

Enamel Club Badge

Wear your breed with pride with this high quality enamel brooch/badge. Order online or send a cheque/PO made out to GOSPBC to the Club.



Only £3.60 each plus p&p

p&p add 75p for 1 or 2; £1.80 for 3 badges

Club News - AGM



Gloucester Old Spot Big Breeders' Club STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS For the year ending 31st October 2011

	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	8,005.16	7,545.00
Donations and Fundraising (including grant)	557.17	2,378.00
Show & Sale (including AGM)	50.00	603.00
Fundraising	0.00	4,252.00
Interest received	4.17	2.43
TOTAL INCOME	<u>8,616.50</u>	<u>14,780.43</u>
MERCHANDISE SALES		
Sales	428.26	524.61
Less: Cost of Sales		
Opening Stock	-837.62	-363.78
Purchases	0.00	-562.32
Stock written off	0.00	0.00
Closing Stock	701.00	837.62
	-136.62	-88.48
(Loss)/ Profit on Merchandise	<u>291.64</u>	<u>436.13</u>
PAYMENTS		
Printing, post and stationery (including newsletter)	3,486.40	2,862.11
Room Rental	100.00	119.35
Insurance	487.50	330.00
Secretarial Honorarium	1,250.00	1,000.00
Advertising	216.43	232.76
Sundry expenditure	3,360.71	5,474.58
Computer and website costs	187.00	586.00
Rosettes	138.65	106.10
Donations		327.88
Total Expenditure	<u>9,226.69</u>	<u>11,038.78</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-318.55	4,177.78
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT START OF YEAR	8,260.64	4,082.86
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-318.55	4,177.78
BALANCE OF FUNDS C/FWD AT END YEAR	<u>7,942.09</u>	<u>8,260.64</u>
Represented by:		
Bank accounts	7,091.12	6,565.08
President's fund	3,001.64	2,000.28
Stocks Held	701.00	837.62
Creditors	-666.67	-1,122.34
Subscriptions in advance	-2,185.00	-20.00
	<u>7,942.09</u>	<u>8,260.64</u>

Important!

Meat Marketing - A Reminder

In order to market the produce of your pigs by breed name - whether GOS or another breed - both parents must be registered pedigree and the litter Birth Notified and properly identified in accordance with BPA or other breed society rules. If the pigs cannot be identified as pedigree, then they are just pigs and you and your customers cannot claim that the pork or bacon is GOS. To do so may leave you open to a visit by Trading Standards.

So remember, Birth Notify all your litters, earmark every pig and get the advantage of selling real Gloucestershire Old Spots produce!

Club News - AGM

GOSPBC - Annual Report for 2011-12

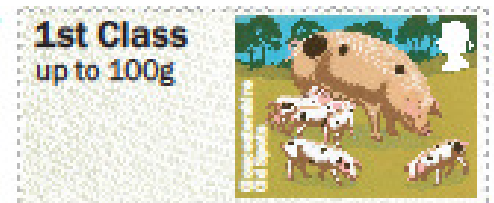


The economic situation has continued and worsened with the weather leading to poor harvests and increased feed costs whilst selling prices remain subdued. Not surprisingly a number of members have quit the unequal struggle and by the time of the next bloodline survey in August 2013, we should expect numbers to have declined overall. Not only was the economy against us, the weather proved to be challenging with some members affected by flooding, not a clever situation for those keeping pigs. It is therefore vital to the health of the breed that others keep going and we encourage as many as possible new keepers of GOS which we hope the Centenary Celebrations will help to achieve. In such hard times it is important to cull out poor performers and concentrate on keeping only the best producing breeding stock.

One thing that is holding numbers at a higher level than any other pedigree breed is the establishment of a single major herd in North Yorkshire by Oliver Whiteley who has a contract to supply high quality, pedigree GOS produce to Marks & Spencers' stores.

GOS Stamps

In the Spring, we celebrated the issue of a range of pig-themed stamps from Royal Mail. Sadly, they were difficult to find over the counter but the GOS edition was nicely illustrated and has helped maintain awareness of Britain's 'favourite breed'!



Traditional Speciality Guaranteed



Uptake is still slow and breeders need to consider what tools they can use in these difficult times to give them an edge. Now what can we possibly do....?

The GOS is unique in having such recognition and the Club have deliberately kept inspection fees at very low rates so that members can gain as much marketing advantage as possible from this initiative. Full details can be found at www.gos-tsg.com.

Show & Sale

The Show & Sale was almost a mirror image of last year with some good pigs selling well and others going home. Whilst we thought that it was a disaster, later sales demonstrated that we had been fortunate and that Cirencester in August is the place to sell quality GOS breeding stock. Come and join us in 2013.

Bramley Old Spots Pork

We pursued Axle Associates for a number of months both through the courts and via Companies House without success and the Committee agreed in April to give up the struggle and so although we won the case to have the Bramley Old Spot Trade mark dissolved, we never received the costs we were awarded. However, the important objective was achieved and both Trade Marks have successfully been removed for good.

General

Much of the period was taken up with planning events for our Centenary celebrations and we hope that **you** will join in like never before. The Club finally agreed to market Canadian-made tattooing pliers as options available in the UK were limited. The Club's offering has larger characters (14mm) and the numbers are chisel point as opposed to needle point making the successful tattoo much more likely to last.

Show Highlights

Judith Sims proved to be the one to beat when she once again won the Elwes Memorial Cup for her Champion of Champions **Winterwood Princess 213** judged by Club President, Dave Overton, at last year's Three Counties Show. In the Northern Championships, Sarah Whitley fulfilled her promise by taking the top prize with her home-bred sow, **Birchfield Dolly 7**, when she was judged at the weather-affected Great Yorkshire Show by Guy Kiddy. And in the Southern Championships at the Newbury Show, Anne Nicholls took the top prize with **Exfold Josephine 201** as judged by Anne Petch. Congratulations to all three whose photos are featured on this year's Year Planner.



Success

- * No other pig breeders' club has a membership of over 300.
- * No other pig breeders' club achieves so much on behalf of its members or is so active in promoting its breed.
- * No other pig organisation has committed itself to celebrating a breed's centenary in such a way.
- * No other pig organisation has a member of the royal family as its patron.

The Gloucestershire Old Spots is unique and special and the GOSPBC will continue to promote it and support the club's members at every opportunity.

Practical Pig Workshop at The Butts Farm, nr Cirencester (see p.10)

By kind invitation of Judy Hancox & Gary Wallace

Sunday 14th April 10.00am - 3.00pm

PROGRAMME

09.30	Arrive - Tea & Coffee	
10.00	Interpreting the Breed Standard - selecting pedigree stock for A) Breeding and B) Showing -	Judith Sims
11.00	AI for Beginners	Guy Kiddy
12.00	Lunch - A Hog Roast	
12.45	What the Butcher Wants	Gary Wallace
	How to Finish GOS Pigs for Meat	Judy Hancox
13.45	Countdown to the Three Counties Show*	Allison Littlehales, Mandy Garbutt & John Lightfoot
14.45	Tea and depart	

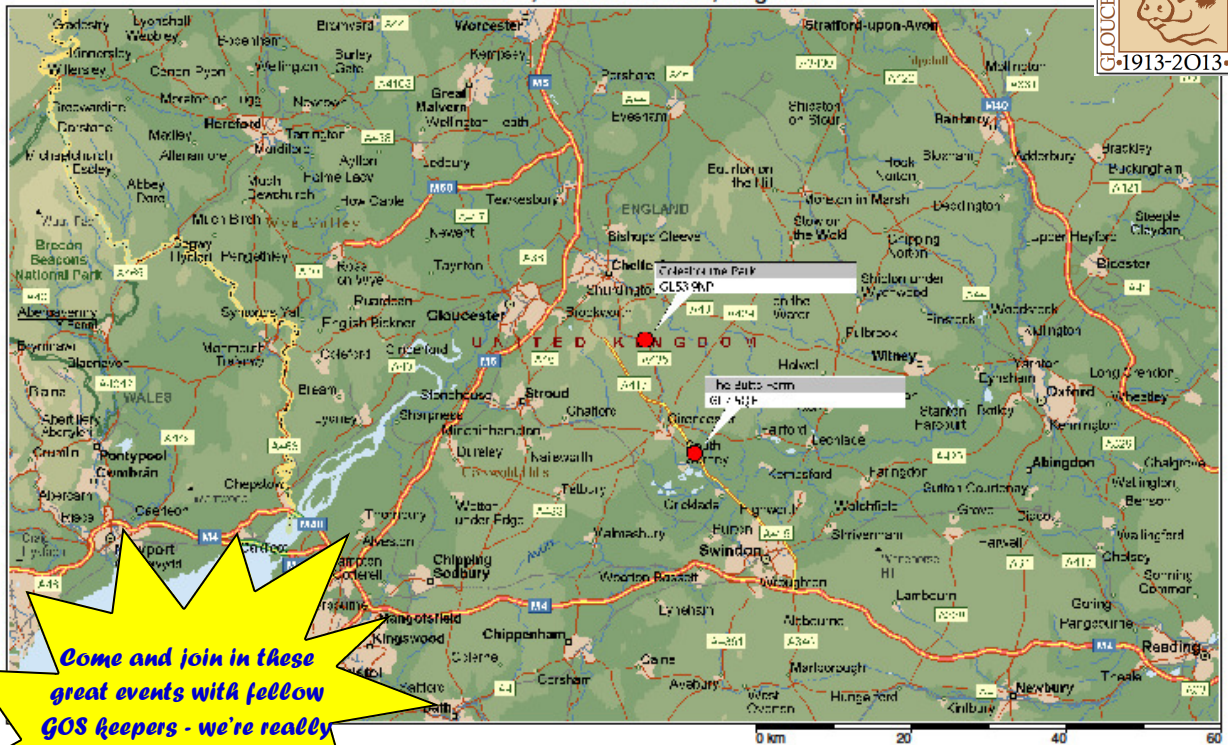
*Countdown to the Three Counties Show continues the advice for members new to showing beginning in this edition (p.10). All three presenters have only begun showing in recent years and know only too well the fears and concerns that new exhibitors feel. We hope that a number of new exhibitors will take the plunge in our Centenary Year and help to promote the breed and their own herd by taking quality stock to a number of shows around the country. As you will see elsewhere, there are a number of special events taking place at the Three Counties Show at Malvern and you will be most welcome to join us there!



Judy Hancox demonstrating pig washing pre-show. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

Club News - AGM & Workshop

How To Get There and How To Book

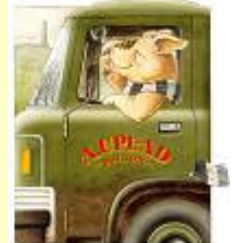


Come and join in these great events with fellow GOS keepers - we're really making a splash this year!

Both events have been planned to provide easy access for as many people as possible. The venues lie in the triangle formed by the M4, M5 and M40 motorways, in the Cotswolds.

Colesbourne village lies on the A435 mid way between Cheltenham and Cirencester and is easy to find. Directions to the AGM will be provided off the main road on the day and there is plenty of parking space.

The Butts Farm where we will move to for our Pig Keeping Workshop is close by off the A419 (the dual carriageway linking the M4 and M5) south of Cirencester and is signposted by brown tourist signs.



There are plenty of facilities in the area for camping, caravans and B&B accommodation and a list will appear on the NEWS section of the website www.oldspots.org.uk. Or you may just like to arrange to camp or caravan at The Butts Farm itself (01285 869414). Judy Hancox has kindly agreed to allow delegates to the AGM and Workshop to do so without charge!

Remember - you can choose to attend both the AGM and the workshop or either one or the other - it's entirely up to you.

The AGM may seem expensive compared with earlier years but the tea with HRH The Princess Royal will be a grand affair with a wide and luxurious selection of food and a Ploughman's Lunch is also included as is the guided tour of the private arboretum.



At the Workshop a hog roast lunch is included in the booking fee. Compare the cost with the various pig keeping courses listed in magazines such as *Practical Pigs* and it is easy to see what excellent value this is.

Members may book personal guests (up to 4 for individual members and 6 for family members) at the members' rate for both events but remember that *only* paid-up members can vote at the AGM.

There is a strict limit of 55 for the AGM and Grand Tea Party and they will be booked on a first come, first served basis. Once spaces have been filled, further applications will be returned, with regret, so please do send your applications in as early as possible! For practical purposes, to ensure everyone gets benefit from the workshop, spaces are limited to 25 on the same basis.

Use the enclosed form and send it with your cheque made payable to 'GOSPBC'. Make sure you provide the names of everyone attending for security purposes.

Workshop at The Butts Farm

The Butts Farm is a working Rare Breeds Farm open to the public and with its own award-winning farm shop. Judy Hancox opened the farm in 1991 and it has been a successful visitor centre ever since. In 2003, her partner, Gary Wallace, a master butcher, opened the Butts Farm Shop on site which has gone from strength to strength. It has featured on television on a number of occasions, first as one of Rick Stein's *Food Heroes* and most recently when the Hairy Bikers recorded a programme there due to be broadcast shortly.



Most of the meat sold in the shop is raised on the farm and Judy is one of the experts when it comes to finishing rare breeds stock of all species as Gary is very exacting in the quality of what he will allow to be displayed for sale. Further, The Butts Farm has been inspected and approved to sell Traditionally Farmed Gloucestershire Old Spots Pork as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed product—the highest standard.



Home produced pork, lamb and beef hanging in the chiller...



before being processed and displayed in the shop.

This is an ideal venue for a GOS workshop with a good selection of stock and excellent facilities. Not only is Judy finishing stock week in, week out, in the last couple of years she has started showing some of her own-bred pigs with some degree of success so she understands what newcomers face when they begin.

The programme is designed to answer some of the ques-

tions asked by members and can be seen in full on page 7. Even experienced breeders will find topics of help and interest here. What's more, the facilities are excellent with dry, undercover units in case of inclement weather, plenty of parking, toilets etc. and a dedicated field



The pigs are finished in light airy open barns and Judy is seen here selecting porkers for the shop.



When the BBC wanted a farm to photograph Tom Archer tending his GOS pigs, they chose The Butts Farm in 2010. Photos by Richard Lutwyche

for campers and caravaners for which there is no charge for delegates.

So use this chance to come and learn from the experts. The cost is minimal compared with most of the pig-keeping courses offered to newcomers and you will get the chance to really hone your pig-management skills. Combine it with our great AGM event and this becomes a weekend not to miss.

An application form is enclosed. Complete it and return it as quickly as possible to ensure that you are one of the lucky ones to get the spaces you want. **Miss it and you'll regret it!**

For more information on the farm and the shop—<http://buttsfarmrarebreeds.co.uk/>

Why aren't we at Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park for the Workshop?

Unfortunately, when we had to change the date of the AGM, we found that Adam's facilities were already booked for the revised date so had to find another venue. The Butts Farm is not only equally convenient to Colesbourne (if not more so) but the facilities with an on-site butchery (and butcher) makes it probably an even better choice than the original (except for those who wanted to swoon over your hero from *Countryfile*).

Countdown to the Three Counties Show 14-16 June by Allison Littlehailes

Although our weekend in April is HUGE, we are also planning another massive event at the Three Counties Show in June. There will be a large EXHIBITION for the public to see, a major SOCIAL EVENT with the RBST and the OLD SPOT CELEBRITY CHALLENGE. To make a success of this, we want as many exhibitors as possible there and there are lots of inducements! The Club is offering £100 to the Breed Champion and £50 to the Runner-up. There is a special class for Novice Exhibitors and an extra Sow Class. What's more, every exhibitor will receive a special Centenary Bone-China Mug. So, for those especially who have not shown before or not been to a major show, this edition of *Spot Press* starts off a countdown of what to do by Allison Littlehailes so there can be no excuses! This will continue through our Workshop in April with practical help and again in *Spot Press* in May so that, come June 14th at Malvern, you'll all be experts!



Showing pigs is a lot of fun and much less daunting than dogs or equines. What's more, it's a great advertisement for the breed and the exhibitor.



Well, hopefully you have thought about showing, were possibly even asked about going and as a Club and breed we really need your support. GOS are the most numerically strong pigs amongst the rare breeds and yet very few are shown. Through all the doom and gloom currently swirling around the industry, wouldn't it be fantastic to get out there and get to it. Show us how much you love your GOS and how fab they are as a breed to everyone at Three Counties and beyond. Let's make Three Counties the year of the GOS!

Here's where we get serious, showing needs preparation and if like me you go weak at the knees at the thought of picking a piglet, conditioning, training, when to enter the show, what class to enter, fear not. Over the run up to Three Counties there will be articles in *Spot Press*, area mentors and a session at the workshop - a half-way point to get us all walking (or running) around the ring this June.

This first article will concentrate on those July born gilts and boars coming up to seven months, but the same principle of selection can be applied to those January litters currently snuggling in neonatal contentment outside right now. So, how do you spot a good prospective show pig?

First off check for objections and disqualifications to the breed standard (shown on the Year Planner), so if your pig has:

Crooked legs.

Short, thick or elevated ears.

A rose in the coat or a line of mane bristles or a sandy colour to the coat.

Blue undertone not associated with a spot or serious wrinkles.

A heavy jowl.

Remember that the breed standard (except for the rose and sandy colour) says 'objectionable', so does not condemn your pig from registration for breeding pigs, just showing and even that can be down to the judge!

Underline needs to be checked and at six months any extra or blind teats should show clearly and the pig should be rejected. Your pig should have a minimum of fourteen evenly spaced teats (boars as well).

Study the legs and general conformation, watch the pigs walk

around. Legs should be straight and strong, back should be long and level and hams should be full and filled down to the hocks. Your pig should look well put together.

Now to the Januaries: they should be checked thoroughly at weaning or earlier. The more you can run on to fatten the easier it will be to spot that special one that stands out. Check your pigs regularly up to registration for showing as they can alter a lot over the months, especially the ears and nose, but you do have to start off with most things looking right. The teats need most attention because teats can alter.

Your January needs to be big. Size matters in the show ring and you should not waste your time with runts as they will never put on enough weight to compete with their peers. One top exhibitor remembers being told, "A good big pig should beat a good little pig." So, no matter how good a pig you have, unless it is fed well it will not be shown to its best. So be liberal with your food.

Planning for showing usually starts in the previous year picking out any possible superstars from your July & September litters and then in February when you pick out your possible Januaries and the first of the show schedules start to drop through the letterbox. Show dates are usually available well in advance from websites like www.asao.co.uk/events which lists many of the agricultural shows large and small around the UK so there's bound to be a pig show near you.

At most shows with GOS pigs, there are usually depending on the time of year a selection of the following classes:-

1. July boar born between 1 July and previous December 31.
2. January boar from same year as shown.
3. Sow born before previous 1 July in pig.
4. Female born between 1st January and 30th June previous year
5. Gilt born between previous 1 July and 31 August.
6. Gilt born between the previous 1 September and 31 December.
7. Gilt born after January same year.

This is why we mention that your planning starts a long time before the actual show with preparing your farrowing times in advance to coincide with these classes. Make sure you birth notify your litters and register any show pigs before the show.

At smaller local shows you may see different class headings; GOS generally come under coloured or traditional breeds classes and do not have their own classes at smaller shows, with a wider age range of pig.

You will also see classes for 'maiden gilts', gilt-in-pig, pork & bacon pigs, pairs, progeny etc if you have any queries about these please get in touch with a member of the GOS committee who will be happy to explain them to you.

At the Three Counties, there's two shows to enter so don't miss out. The main show for all breeds is on Friday and Saturday and then there's a brand new show on Sunday for Rare & Minority breeds with different judges and a chance to do better than you did two days earlier—it happens!

Make sure you read the schedule of the show relating to pigs; some shows have rules about sows having had so many litters, gilts being in pig and boars to have fathered X amount of litters so read up the rules page, there will also be information regarding the identification of your pigs and about the AML requirements. You will generally find all this information just before the list of classes. The larger county shows may seem daunting at first and you may prefer to just visit these and watch and then start at a couple of your local one day shows where the classes are a bit less formal but no less serious and you can gain experience without the added pressure of being away from your holding/farm for a few days.

Once you've decided which show and which of your pigs you would



A January gilt class at the late-lamented Royal Show 2009. Photos by Richard Lutwyche

like to enter, you will need to fill in the entry form; some shows now allow you to do this on-line, whilst others use a paper entry form. Check the entry closing dates carefully so as not to miss them - lots of people make their entries close to the wire so as to maximize their choice of pigs but most of us know well in advance which pigs we will be using for the forthcoming season. When you fill in the forms you will need to have at hand your pig's pedigree name, its date of birth, its registration & ear number and also those of its parents. Not all shows ask for the same information so it's worth making a 'show file' in which you can have copies of pedigrees, keep all your show schedules and to keep all your tick-

ets, directions, vehicle passes, numbers & programmes in when they start to arrive a couple of weeks before each show. We use a binder filled with clear wallets and slide each show into an individual wallet, label it and that way we don't get mixed up. Once your entry form is filled in, check over it and make out the appropriate

Remember that one of your Member benefits is automatic Public Liability Insurance covering your pigs while at a show in the UK. Some shows insist that you show proof of such insurance in which case you can request a copy of the document from the Club (£5 admin charge). Otherwise, it's one thing less to worry about and if you go for your own cover from the likes of NFU Mutual, expect to pay a premium running into hundreds of pounds!

cheque or pay by card on-line, make a copy for yourself so you know what you've entered or print off from an on-line entry and add to your growing file.

Now you've made those entries it's time to start training those pigs! Each showman will have their own method of training pigs and when they start with them. We first of all separate our selected show pigs from the rest of their siblings. If you're going to do a lot of shows you will need to speak to your vet regarding an isolation unit (we use a separate stable block and yard for ours) and your show team will live in there throughout the season. Our show pigs also get a slightly increased

ration of food (full 6lb per day + extra veg/fruit) as judges like to see them quite rounded; exercising helps them produce muscle and strengthen their legs.

We keep our show pigs in pairs and start walking them out individually at about 12 weeks old, we usually have our board and stick with us but for the main part it's just used as an occasional stop board or for gentle guidance, at this stage we just want them to get used to walking alone with us, most of the time we lead and they trot along behind often chewing our stick or have a gloriously giddy gallop off into the horizon! As time progresses set up a miniature show ring if you can and get your team walking in a clockwise direction, you need to be on their left side with your board and your stick in the right hand (a bit of a nuisance if you're left handed!), both tools are for guiding and controlling your pig. Practice walking out as often as you can, a sharp tap of the stick under the chin or on the shoulder will keep them in line so they learn that you are boss. We do not use or approve the use of punishment as a tool to teach pigs. We train our pigs in fairly short sessions as the pigs get bored or decide to riot! Twenty minutes two or three times a day if you can for each pig you plan to show and don't forget boars requires two competent handlers to show them.

Starting with just a July and a January gilt is a good idea until you feel more confident. It is time consuming and can be frustrating, some pigs just don't like showing but we find by spending time with our show team and fussing them, ours all have pet names, they do become more socialized and enjoy the attention. Ours are also trained to the rattle of the feed bucket so that if they do decide to make a run for it during a show they can always be coaxed back by the sound of the bucket!

99% of all training should be before the show rather than expecting the pig to learn at the show though tolerance towards January born pigs is usually exercised. You do learn as you show and at most shows the judge may come to you to tell you why your pig won/failed, in his/her opinion, which is usually good, impartial criticism and useful for future shows. The main thing is to enjoy your showing and go in at a level that suits you. Three Counties is a great place to start.



The Village Pig-Killer by Richard Lutwyche



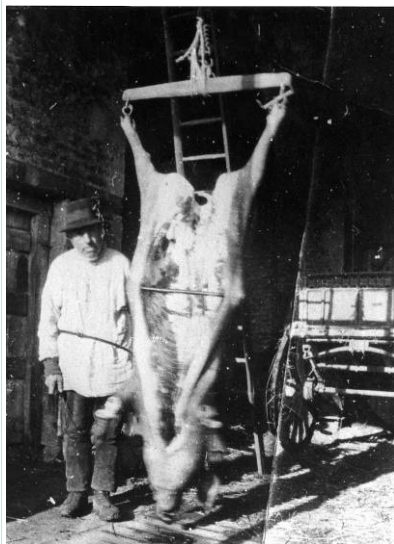
Simon Beech, a member from Berkshire, recently acquired a postcard shown below from 1905 depicting a recently slaughtered pig apparently being set on fire with a group of people gathered round, watching. He was curious about the process and suggested it might make an interesting article, so here we go.

Slaughtering around major conurbations has been carried out in centralised 'depots' for much of history. Until the last couple of centuries, these were in the open air and the historic name for them was 'The Shambles', a name still associated with some lanes and districts in different towns and cities.

In rural areas, there was no point in travelling by ox- or horse-cart with one or two animals so someone in the vicinity would be the self-appointed slaughterman. Most needs were for pigs as these were the animals kept by most cottagers and there was regular work for the village pig-killer. It would not be their full-time occupation but something carried out usually in the evening or early morning. Often the pig-killer would be a local butcher who travelled to a number of villages in an area but it could be anybody, of almost any occupation. In Corby Glen in



Simon Beech's mystery postcard



Charlie Winter, one of the old-time village pig-stickers from the Cotswolds.

Lincolnshire, the local pig-sticker was also a stonemason; in Saddlecombe in Sussex, a farm worker supplemented his income in such a way. Sometimes he would be a 'jack-of-all-trades' sort such as Joe Wall from Codnor, Derbyshire who was described in the late 1800s thus: 'He was a short, stocky, red, round-faced fellow, who did a bit of farming, butchering, pig-killing, buying and dealing.' Charlie Winter whose photo is shown here, was a well-known character serving a number of villages in the Cotswolds. In the same area was Alfred Williams from Cricklade on the Wiltshire-Gloucestershire borders. He was a country parson who not only killed pigs but was famed for boxing too. He boxed with the villagers and 'killed the poor people's pigs, gratis, with skill and despatch' according to Alfred Williams in *Round About The Upper Thames* published in 1922.

Normally a pig-sticker would charge a fee and receive some meat as well. Thus in Hockham in Norfolk in the late 1800s, the pig slaughterer was a farmer and Methodist who charged between 1/6d (7½p) and 2/6d (12½p). In Broadway, Worcestershire before the First World War, the pig sticker received 2/- (10p) and a joint of pork.

We have a number of descriptions of the act of pig-killing in the 19th century as everyday country life was widely recorded in literature from the time including Thomas Hardy's *Jude The Obscure* and Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* but we start with an extract from *Cottage Life from a Hertfordshire Village* (1935) written by Edwin Grey born in 1859.

When the appointed day came round for the slaughtering there was a subdued air of excitement and expectancy among the immediate cottages of which the pig-keeper's cottage was one, for had they not contributed their quota to the wash-tub, and would therefore presently be the recipients of a nice plate of fry or maybe a few pork cuttings, for... it was the custom at killing time to distribute such to all these contributors. On this day the housewife would be busy early, getting boiling water, etc., all ready for the butcher; this job, seeing that the men were away at work, generally fell to the lot of the women. Presently Dave Dimmock, the local pig-killer, would come along with the scalding tub, pig rack, steel yard, etc. and the work would commence, the actual killing taking place (at least all that I saw) in the outer part of the sty itself, the scalding and dressing on the pathway close by. Of course the pig made a vigorous protest, his squeals being heard at a great distance, but the noise apparently disturbed no one in the least. Maybe a few neighbours' children might be attracted to the spot by the commotion, and would stand looking wonderingly on at the operation.*

*A steel yard was a device for weighing the carcass. The weight may have influenced the fee charged.

Flora Thompson also describes the deed at the end of the nineteenth century in rural Oxfordshire thus:

When the pig was fattened – and the fatter the better – the date of execution had to be decided upon. It had to take place some time during the first two quarters of the moon; for if the pig was killed when the moon was waning the bacon would shrink in cooking, and they

wanted it to 'plimp up'. The next thing was to engage the travelling pork butcher, or pig-sticker, and, as he was a thatcher by day, he always had to kill after dark, the scene being lighted with lanterns and the fire of burning straw which at a later stage of the proceedings was to singe the bristles off the victim.



The killing was a noisy, bloody business, in the course of which the animal was hoisted to a rough bench that it might bleed thoroughly and so preserve the quality of the meat. The job was often bungled, the pig sometimes getting away and having to be chased; but country people of that day had little sympathy for the sufferings of animals, and men, women, and children would gather round to see the sight.



Jean-Francois Millet painted 'The Pig Slaughter' in the 1860s. The practice led to the expression 'to be led up (or down) the garden path' meaning 'to be taken in/to be conned'.

Superstitions abounded around pig-killing. Menstruating women, for instance, could not be involved in the process for if they were, the meat would spoil and not take the salt.

Thomas Hardy was a countryman and a great recorder of everyday happenings among country people. His last book was *Jude The Obscure* published in 1895 and in it he devotes a whole chapter describing the killing of a pig. Tensions are strained between Jude and his ill-suited wife, Arabella. They have raised a pig as part of their normal married life and the time has come for its despatch but the pig-killer, named Challow, fails to arrive on that snowy morning. Jude proposes a delay in the execution.

'I'm afraid the pig-killer won't be able to come,' he said to Arabella.

'O, he'll come. You must get up and make the water hot, if you want Challow to scald him. Though I like singeing best.'

'I'll get up,' said Jude. 'I like the way of my own county.'

He went downstairs, lit the fire under the copper, and began feeding it with bean-stalks, all the time without a candle, the blaze flinging a cheerful shine into the room; though for him the sense of cheerfulness was lessened by thoughts of the reason of that blaze – to heat water to scald an animal that as yet lived, and whose voice could be continually heard from a corner of the garden. At half-past six, the time of appointment with the butcher, the water boiled, and Jude's wife came downstairs.

'Is Challow come?' she asked.

'No'.

They waited, and it grew lighter, with the dreary light of a snowy dawn. She went out, gazed along the road, and returning, said, 'He's not coming. Drunk last night, I expect. The snow is not enough to hinder him, surely!'

'Then we must put it off. It is only the water boiled for nothing. The snow may be deep in the valley.'

'Can't be put off. There's no more victuals for the pig. He ate the last mixing o' barleymeal yesterday morning.'

'Yesterday morning? What has he lived on since?'

'Nothing.'

'What – has he been starving?'

'Yes. We always do it the last day or two, to save bother with the innards. What ignorance, not to know that!'

'That accounts for his crying so. Poor creature!'

'Well – you must do the sticking – there's no help for it. I'll show you how. Or I'll do it myself – I think I could. However, his basket o' knives and things have been already sent on here, and we can use 'em.'

'Of course you shan't do it,' said Jude. 'I'll do it, as it must be done.'

He went out to the sty, shovelled away the snow for the space of a couple of yards or more, and placed the stool in front, with the knives and ropes at hand. A robin peered down at the preparations from the nearest tree, and, not liking the sinister look of the scene, flew away, though hungry. By the time Arabella had joined her husband, and Jude, rope in hand, got into the sty, and noosed the affrighted animal, who, beginning with a squeak of surprise, rose to repeated cries of rage. Arabella opened the sty-door, and together they hoisted the victim on to the stool, legs upward, and while Jude held him Arabella bound him down, looping the cord over his legs to keep him from struggling.

The animal's note changed its quality. It was not now rage, but the cry of despair; long-drawn, slow and hopeless.

'Upon my soul, I would sooner have gone without the pig than have had this to do!' said Jude. 'A creature I have fed with my own hands.'

....(cont. over)

The Village Pig-Killer cont.



'Don't be such a tender-hearted fool! There's the sticking-knife – the one with the point. Now whatever you do, don't stick un too deep.'

'I'll stick him effectually, so as to make short work of it. That's the chief thing.'

'You must not!' she cried. 'The meat must be well bled, and to do that he must die slow. We shall lose a shilling a score if the meat is red and bloody! Just touch the vein, that's all. He ought to be eight or ten minutes dying, at least.'

'He shall not be half a minute if I can help it, however the meat may look,' said Jude determinedly. Scraping the bristles from the pig's upturned throat, as he had seen the butchers do, he slit the fat; then plunged in the knife with all his might.

'Od damn it all!' she cried, 'that ever I should say it!' You've over-stuck un! And I telling you all the time – '

'Do be quiet, Arabella, and have a little pity on the creature!'

'Hold up the pail to catch the blood, and don't talk!'

However unworkmanlike the deed, it had been mercifully done. The blood flowed out in a torrent instead of in the trickling stream she had desired. The dying animal's cry assumed its third and final tone, the shriek of agony; his glazing eyes riveting themselves on Arabella with the eloquently keen reproach of a creature recognising at last the treachery of those who had seemed his only friends.

'Make un stop that!' said Arabella. 'Such a noise will bring somebody or other up here, and I don't want people to know we are doing it ourselves.' Picking up the knife from the ground whereupon Jude had flung it, she slipped it into the gash, and slit the wind-pipe. The pig was instantly silent, his dying breath coming through the hole.

'That's better,' she said.

'It's a hateful business,' said he.

'Pigs must be killed'.

The animal heaved in a final convulsion, and, despite the rope, kicked out with all his last strength. A tablespoon of black clot came forth, the trickling of red blood having ceased for some seconds.

'That's it; now he'll go,' said she. 'Artful creatures – they always keep back a drop like that as long as they can!'

The last plunge had come so unexpectedly as to make Jude stagger, and in recovering himself he kicked over the vessel in which the blood had been caught.

'There!' she cried, thoroughly in a passion. 'Now I can't make any blackpot [black pudding]. There's a waste, all through you!'

Jude put the pail upright, but only about a third of the whole steaming liquid was left in it, the main part being splashed over the snow, and forming a dismal, sordid, ugly spectacle – to those who saw it as other than an ordinary obtaining of meat. The lips and nostrils of the animal turned livid, then white, and the muscles of his limbs relaxed.

'Thank God!' Jude said. 'He's dead.'

'What's God to do with such a messy job as pig killing, I should like to know!' she said scornfully. 'Poor folks must live.'

'I know, I know,' said he, 'I don't scold you.'

Suddenly they became aware of a voice at hand.

'Well done, young married volk! I couldn't have carried it out much better myself, cuss me if I could!' The voice, which was husky, came from the garden-gate, and looking up from the scene of slaughter they saw the burly form of Mr. Challow leaning over the gate, critically surveying their performance.

'Tis well for 'ee to stand there and glare!' said Arabella. 'Owing to your being late the meat is blooded and half-spoiled! 'Twon't fetch so much by a shilling a score!'

Challow expressed his contrition. 'You should have waited a bit,' he said, shaking his head, 'and not have done this – in the delicate state too, that you be in at present, Ma'am. 'Tis risking yourself too much'.

'You needn't be concerned about that,' said Arabella, laughing. Jude, too, laughed, but there was a strong flavour of bitterness in his



A Siding knife of the type used to scrape bristles from the carcass. (An example can be seen in the hand of the pig-killer on page 8 and below). Photo by Richard Lutwyche



De-berstling using the scalding method with the assistance of a cat - eat your heart out Environmental Health Officers!



A mediaeval wooden carving on a misericord at the church at Ripple, Worcs. showing the slaughtering of a pig.. Photo by Richard Lutwyche

slaughterhouses use large dipping tanks rather than heating a copper and transporting endless kettles. However, hot water can make the skin flaccid and today, craft butchers looking to make dry-cured bacon, prefer the singeing method which now usually means the use of a blow torch.

The old photograph (1905) on p.8 that is the subject of this article shows a more traditional use of singeing. The pig is laid on the ground and the bolting straw is stacked against its sides and set alight. Here is a more detailed description from *Good Neighbours* by Walter Rose (1942).

Two main burnings were necessary; and usually two smaller burnings followed. As the pig lay on its side, the hairs from the back and the belly were not all burnt away. These needed turning upward; small quantities of straw were burned to get rid of them. Finally, a strong broom was applied with vigour to the carcase, to sweep away the smut and residue of burnt hair and straw. Then the 'pig ladder', like a rude ambulance [stretcher], was brought, and the carcase was turned on it and carried to a place convenient for washing. Buckets of water were thrown on its steaming sides, while the butcher deftly scraped the skin from head to tail. Then the pig changed completely. It was no longer the black pig that we remember so well in the sty, but became a hairless mottled brown carcase.

And so now we see how Simon's old postcard depicted an everyday country scene where the recently slaughtered pig is being deprived of its coat of bristles. It also reminds us that such goings on were usually carried out with a small crowd of onlookers and helpers. What might seem surprising in this day and age is that such a scene should be depicted in a picture postcard, and not a particularly rare one at that as I have seen several examples, meaning it must have been quite popular in its day.

You might think that our forebears were ghoulish for showing such scenes but consider for a moment how our Edwardian great grandparents might have reacted to everyday scenes of sex and violence that exist online and on our televisions in our homes today.

amusement.

Challow made up for his neglect of the killing by zeal in the scalding and scraping. Jude felt dissatisfied with himself as a man at what he had done, though aware of his lack of common sense, and that the deed would have amounted to the same thing if carried out by his deputy. The white snow, stained with the blood of his fellow-mortal, wore an illogical look to him as a lover of justice, not to say a Christian; but he could not see how the matter was to be mended. No doubt he was, as his wife had called him, a tender-hearted fool.

All these descriptions predate the use of a poleaxe to kill the pig before the knife was skilfully utilised to facilitate bleeding on the pig bench. The pig would be laid on its side and after the incision was made, the uppermost hind leg would be pumped to expel the blood.

After bleeding, the next job was to remove the bristles from the body of the animal. Jude's preferred method was the use of hot water and scraping, something that still occurs today in almost all abattoirs although modern



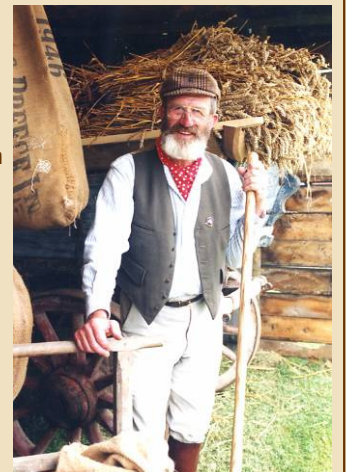
This photograph from Northumberland, also from 1905, shows how the more humane poleaxe is replacing the knife in the act of killing the pig.

Stop Press!

Honorary Club member and former Committee member, Eric Freeman from near Newent in Gloucestershire, has been awarded the prestigious Marsh Trust Award for his lifetime dedication to rare breeds by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. The award was made by HRH The Prince of Wales in London on 14th February and reflects Eric's interest in all rare breeds but especially those from his native county, GOS pigs, Gloucester cattle and Cotswold sheep.

Eric's interests and achievements are too numerous to list here so we will publish a more detailed article in the next edition. Suffice to say that there are more interesting tales surrounding Eric and his stock than most breeders!

In the meantime, huge congratulations to Eric and long may his work continue.



News from America by Prof Robyn Metcalfe, President of GOSA

A New Year Brings a New Blog and Bloodlines

Happy New Year to all GOS breeders! This year is off to a promising start with our new website blog and the arrival of new stock through GOSA member Luther Clevenger's recent importation of UK GOS semen.

The arrival of our blog promises to provide our members with more up-to-date information, providing an alternative to our printed newsletter, which is restricted to the limits of paper and the post office. Now, members can submit your stories and information to the blog editor so that we can get news out to you more often.

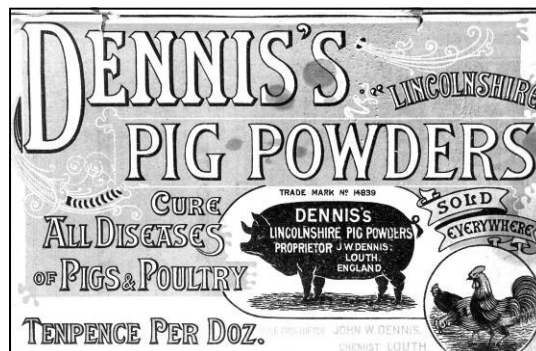
Luther and Julie Clevenger have brought in frozen semen from Deerpark Pigs from two registered boars. Robert Overend, a pig farmer and former politician in Northern Ireland, is highly regarded in Britain for breeding Landrace pigs, so much so that he was awarded the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire). His farm operates an AI station that works with pedigree pigs, including Gloucestershire Old Spots.

More information about the boars that provided Luther's first shipment, Alsa Gerald 451 and Windmill Patrick 6, is here: <http://www.britishpigs.org.uk/>.

Luther tells us that he plans to use the semen on his herd and is planning a second importation soon. He hopes to have enough semen in the future so that he can make these new genetics available to other members. You can reach the Clevenger's at luther@whitebuffaloinc.com. Luther is also a member of GOSPBC.

[NB—we are hoping that Robyn and another from GOSA will be able to join us at Colesbourne for our AGM and Grand Afternoon Tea! - Ed.]

You can find out more about GOSA and see the new Blog by visiting <http://www.gosamerica.org/>



Get Ready for Showing!

White Show Coats

When you start showing, the first thing you need above almost everything else, is a smart, clean white show coat.

Unique to the GOSPBC, you can order these with the Club logo embroidered onto the breast pocket.

£30.00 each + £4.50p&p
(same p&p for multiple orders)

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Contact the Club or go to the online Shop to order.

Sizes:

XS-33-34"

S-35-36"

M-37-39"

L-40-43"

XL-44-47"



You need to supply your own washing powder!

Spotlight on Andy Webb at the Riverbourne Community Farm by Allison Littlehales



When and why did you start in pigs?

I went on a one day course with Pig Perfect in early 2009 which coincided with the creation of River Bourne Community Farm in Salisbury. I had a hankering to look after pigs for a long time but it was not until the course that I actually "laid hands" on one.

Armed with the basics I volunteered at the farm, and our first pigs, three Tamworths and a Saddleback, arrived in November 2009.

Why did you pick GOS?

Being a Community Farm it is very important that all of our stock is good natured and calm around people; I read up on GOS and saw that they would fit the bill, at the time we were looking for a sow in pig and found one locally. She has an extremely good nature and always seems to enjoy meeting her public. This breed also produces excellent meat



What do you do with all your pigs?

The timing of new litters is organised to provide meat in time to be sold through the farm shop on Farm Open Sunday in June and during the Christmas period. We produce both joints and sausages for which there is great demand particularly at the barbeque on the Open day. We have, on occasions, sold surplus weaners to independent farmers, be grown on for meat

Do you show any pigs?

No

What lines do you have?

Rosie, our breeding sow is a Princess. We also have an Oxford Sandy & Black breeding sow.

What do I enjoy about keeping pigs?

In addition to the day to day husbandry, the recording and organising of moves and the running of the feeding rota, I enjoy the fact that pig keeping at the farm allows me to be an integral part of that operation.



As for the pigs themselves it is great watching them grow and develop their own characters and there is a feeling of satisfaction when more knowledgeable pig keepers call at the farm and praise our endeavours.

Either during visits, or via the website, people get to hear of pending new arrivals and it is great as the day draws closer to have visitors asking "has she had them yet ?" as we all get caught up in the excitement of new piglets.

Any Major incidents?

Rosie was not a very good first time mother as she did not produce sufficient milk to feed her piglets and so they required supplementary feeding for a month; thankfully she has now got the hang of it.

Any advice for someone who has joined the club and new to pig keeping?

Research the subject thoroughly, talking to experienced pig keepers will provide you with an un-romantic and realistic insight into pig keeping. There are some good Pig Husbandry courses available and these can be a very good introduction into the subject.. Not only should you be aware of the practical requirements of the job but also the regulations that must be adhered to.

There are numerous journals and books available on the subject and time spent perusing these will give you a detailed knowledge, combined with the experience of your fellow pig farmers, that you require to be successful in your pig husbandry .

Riverbourne Community Farm is based in Salisbury, Wiltshire and you can find out more about it and Rosie's progress at:
www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk/



Rare Breed Pig Keeping



In 2003, the GOSPBC published the above titled book which was very successful with the entire print run of 1,000 selling out. There had been plans to update and republish but it is surprising how quickly things change and how much is now out of date. Furthermore, when it was produced there were virtually no other titles on the market geared for small-scale pig keeping enterprises but today that has changed and the budding pig keeper has a wide selection to choose from. So, instead of risking substantial funds on a revision and reprint, we shall reproduce the book over a number of issues of Spot Press and hope that members will find the enterprise to be helpful to them. Incidentally, the GOSPBC is the only such organisation to publish a book intended to help novice pig keepers demonstrating its commitment and leadership in the field.

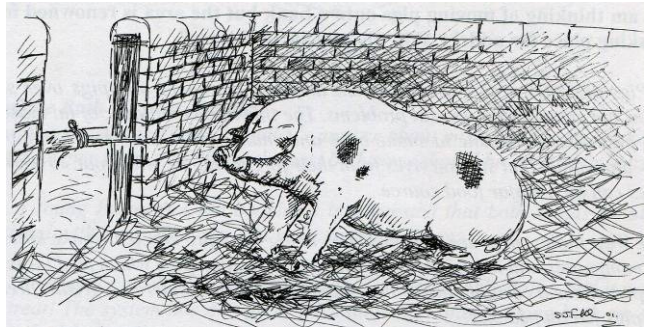


PIG RINGING - THE NOISIEST JOB IN THE WORLD by Lewis Barnfield

Putting rings into pigs' noses is to stop them rooting, (digging up the ground), and if you live on deep clay as I do you will most definitely see the need, especially when it is wet.

There are two types of ring in use; the self-piercing copper ring, about 1" in diameter, inserted into the skin between and above the nostrils with a special pair of pliers. These pliers can be purchased from the suppliers of the rings and most farm shops will stock this type or can get them for you.

The second type is the "Bull" ring. To fit these, a hole must be pierced in the gristle part of the nose between the nostrils, the self-locking ring is then inserted and locked.



I'm not in complete favour of the bull type because I have on occasions noticed that with certain types of feeding troughs they have caused the pigs some discomfort when feeding, but this is only a very personal observation.

Now to the actual process of ringing.

Getting a good strong piece of rope, not too thick, tie a slip knot in one end and then thread the noose into the pig's mouth, ensuring that it is behind the incisor teeth and over the nostrils, pull the rope tight and tie the free end to something firm; I find a stake placed across the door of the pen is ideal for this.

The pig will continually pull backwards so ensure that it cannot get its back to the wall so as to keep the rope tight at all times.

I usually put in two rings and while the operation is taking place, the noise will be deafening. A little bleeding will occur but this will very quickly cease and once the pig is released, it resumes normal life with no apparent discomfort, except, of course, when it starts digging again. If you are concerned about the wound, apply a little disinfectant before release.

Small rings can be obtained for smaller pigs. Rings do get lost from time to time but I have never found a pig with any serious damage to its nose and therefore have had no problem with replacements.

Pigs can be rung at any time; sows, boars or younger pigs except for in-pig females. It is not advisable to ring pigs within one month of farrowing but at any other time, no problem.



Q. I am thinking of moving pigs onto a bank but the area is renowned for a basking place for adders. Will my pigs be in danger?

A. Pigs are known as a very efficient disposer of snakes and pigs over six months old should have no real problems. The thick skin and layer of fat makes adult pigs almost immune to snake bites and snakes are a tasty snack to most pigs - an instinct that still survives from their forebears, the wild boar, to whom snakes can be a major food source.

In the West Indies, pigs are recognised as being far more efficient snake killers than mongooses and in regions of Spain, they claim that pigs which feed largely on vipers, have a certain tang to their hams which is considered a greater treat than pigs fed on peaches.

Dr Spot

Q. Is there any way I can mix sows together without their fighting to establish a pecking order?

A. The only way I mix sows together is in at least an acre of ground because the residents of that area will fight with whatever is introduced. Mixing at feeding time gives the new sows a short time to look around the field. GOS can give each other some nasty ear injuries.

I have never tried spraying them with anything.

Gabriel Dudley

Bubble Bath for peaceful pigs

I was interested in Gabriel Dudley's answer about mixing sows. As a very new GOS keeper I was told that in the past both sows should be covered in sump oil!

In a Young Farmer's Club booklet it is suggested that both snouts should be rubbed with a parafin rag, and you can buy a spray.

In the absence of either, we used Imperial Leather Bubble Bath - and it worked a treat! The system has one great advantage that after bathing both we smelt wonderful as well.

Basil Jaques

Yo Yo Yo Yo Yo Yo



There's Lots More Happening in Our Centenary Year

This edition of *Spot Press* has focused on the most immediate events, the AGM and Workshop and the display at the Gloucester Folk Museum. The next edition, due out in April/May, will deal much more with the happenings at the Three Counties Show, the Grand Draw and later events.

There's still time to offer your own prize for the Grand Draw which is being held to raise funds to allow everything that is taking place this year to happen. We have some great prizes but more are always welcome. What could you offer? Maybe you run pig-keeping courses and could offer a free place? Or a basket of GOS produce? Or maybe you have other skills or interests that would make a worthwhile prize. Whatever you can do, please let the Secretary know **soonest**. We will launch the Draw at the AGM and all members will be sent an initial 2 books to sell with more available. The Draw will take place in the autumn.

We also need volunteers please to help man the display stand at the Three Counties Show. Can you spare a couple of hours? If so you will get free admission to the show and help with answering questions, keeping an eye on the display and maybe selling some draw tickets. If you can help, contact the Secretary as soon as possible!



A spotty line-up at Teresa Cook's Suffolk farm. Photo by Teresa Cook.

Collectible Pigs by Richard Lutwyche



Examples of Wemyss pigs. Note that those decorated with roses, shamrocks etc. are more valuable than the plain models.

Pigs feature widely in decorative tableware. When meals were more formal and substantial, large apple sauce containers in the form of a grand pig with a lid in the middle of its back would grace the centre of the table. Equally, vegetable tureens might be found in the form of a boar's head, hinting at the very finest feasting to be had. Both today and yesterday you will find fancy teapots, cruet sets, sauce boats and much else besides in decorative pottery in the form of a pig. Add to this oven gloves, decorative plates, tea towels, mats and coasters, and almost anything else you can think of, and it is possible to fill your kitchen and dining table with novel pig ware. Well, there are worse things to collect.



Victorian pin cushions and nib wipers in the form of pigs.

hasten to add, apply to everything. In the late 1980s, the NatWest Bank joined the bandwagon in trying to recruit children to bank with them. Open a special account with a minimum deposit and you would be awarded one of a family of five specially designed piggy banks (baby Woody). Keep saving and when you reached the next stage, a balance of £25, along comes the next member of the family, Annabel, and so on until you had all five, (son Maxwell, Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel), by which time the NatWest marketing people reckoned that you would be firmly hooked on them as your lifelong bankers. The family became very collectible and after the offer was closed and something else in the way of corporate bribery replaced it, antiques fairs and flea markets could be seen (and still are) offering examples of the family at greatly inflated values. It has been estimated that a complete set is now worth some £250!

Another modern manufacturer to look out for is John Beswick, (the 'w' in the surname is pronounced rather than silent), whose models of farm animals, horses, dogs etc. are widely collected and have enjoyed a rise in value over the last 50 or so years. Another is Royal Doulton.

On a larger scale, fairground gallopers are sometimes made in the form of pigs instead of horses and as these are few and far between, they can be

Many people collect artefacts of pigs of all types and pigs having been so popular over centuries, model pigs in all forms are not difficult to find. Some very famous manufacturers have produced models of pigs not least of which is the Wemyss pottery near Kircaldy in Fife which operated between the 1880s and 1930s. Whilst Wemyss Ware was not expensive when new, it has retained a certain cachet and much of it commands high prices today. HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was a collector as was the late Franklyn D Roosevelt. One of their most popular designs is of a sitting pig which comes in two sizes and is decorated in different styles. If you find one priced under £50 in a junk shop, it could be worth grabbing although they are so famous now, few purveyors will be ignorant of their true value which is usually hundreds of pounds.

Pigs feature widely in decorative tableware. When meals were more formal and substantial, large apple



A group of kitchen/tableware items including an impressive apple sauce boat in the form of a Middle White sow.

The Victorians loved to utilise animals in making decorative items, especially in silverware and pigs were frequently displayed in this way. Thus you might come across a cruet set being two pigs and a trough. One pig is the pepper pot, the other contains the mustard and the trough is a salt cellar with its own spoon to transfer the condiment to the plate. Alternatively, you might find one of a number of designs of pin cushions, where the pig's body contains the material into which the needles and pins can be safely stored and which forms the back of the pig. Sometimes the silverware will be in the shape of a pig but as a vestas or match box where loose matches could be stored and struck against a serrated plate, usually being the base.

Collecting things for pleasure rather than to increase your wealth is much the safer option - if your collection does become more valuable then it is a useful bonus. Things go up in value even when they are not very old but it does not, I



Various modern piggy banks including an example from the NatWest collection in the form of Annabel (top right). All photos on this page by Richard Lutwyche



A Sussex pig made around 1900.

grown from this inspiration. It was said to be a tradition to drink the bride's health from such a vessel at Sussex weddings so that it could be legitimately claimed that each guest had drunk a 'hogshead' of ale in her honour.

In ancient times, the Chinese held the pig in great esteem, (it is one of just 12 animals represented in the Chinese New Year celebrations), and models shaped as pigs would be buried alongside important individuals to provide good luck in the afterlife. Three of these which, although quite crude, are definitely pigs, are shown here.



Chinese carvings in the form of pigs used as good luck charms in the tombs of the wealthy.

Superior Tattooing Equipment

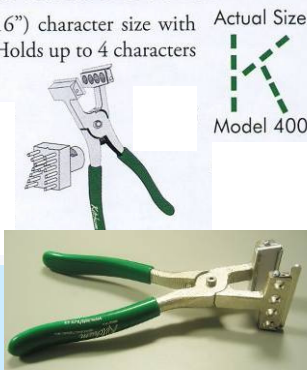
You should only need to buy one tattooing kit in your lifetime so make sure it's good quality. You will find cheaper equipment but one of the things that exercises established breeders is the poor quality of many tattoos in pig's ears that become illegible in a short space of time. Part of the problem is technique but the biggest

Large Character Tattoo Outfits

Model 400: 14mm (9/16") character size with Ketchum chisel points. Holds up to 4 characters in one row.

Nos. in sets 0-9

- 1 set will do nos 1-10
- 2 sets 11-110
- 3 sets 111-1110
- 4 sets 1111-9999



failing is the equipment available in the UK which is why the Club have been instrumental in importing from Canada special pliers that take 14mm high characters which are chisel point instead of needle point. Such numbers carry more ink through the pig's ear which, coupled with the larger size, means that there's a much better chance of the ear number being legible throughout the pig's life. Remember these are not only suitable for GOS but Large White, Tamworth, Middle White, Welsh, British Lop, Oxford Sandy & Black, Pietrain, Landrace etc.

Order details can be found on the Club's Shop on the website and you can order paying by credit/debit card via PayPal.

AVAILABLE FROM STOCK

expensive to buy but wonderfully decorative to own.

A Sussex Pig is a standing pig. The head is the cup which twists off at the neck allowing a vessel for the contents of the body to be drunk from. Examples can be seen in museums. The ancient Romans produced drinking cups in the shape of boar's heads and the Sussex version may have



REMEMBER

The Club would like to borrow any artefacts you may have depicting GOS pigs for use in the exhibition at the Three Counties Show.

Contact Richard Lutwyche with details - 01285 860229
mail@oldspots.org.uk

A deep pink pig with diamond eyes is one of the most desirable if not among the rarest to find. Made by Fabergé in the late nineteenth century, it will doubtless set you back thousands of pounds. Something to aspire to! Unfortunately, I don't have one to photograph for you but if one of our members would like to send me one, I will gladly take a picture for a future edition. Return not guaranteed!



The dish on the right is by Royal Doulton and is quite rare. The Iowa Hog (top left) is an American whiskey manufacturer's take on the Sussex Pig. The pile of GOS on the right was made by Salford Pottery in Bristol and may be one to watch for the future.

Merchandise - Support GOS - Wear the Logo!

Now is the time to order your GOS bespoke clothing. You can order via the website where you have the added advantage of being able to pay by Credit or Debit card using *PayPal* or contact the Secretary for an order form. The bespoke range with the Club logo embroidered on every item is high quality clothing that should last and last so go for it! P&P details can be found on the website and the order form.



Bespoke Range All Including The Club Logo Embroidered Onto the Garment Photos Show Some Garments Without the Logo. ADULT'S UNISEX PREMIUM FULL ZIP FLEECE

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / CHARCOAL / MAROON

Members' Price: £34.99 each



PREMIUM UNISEX SWEATSHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON

Members' Price: £20.95 each



PREMIUM UNISEX PIQUE POLO SHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON / WHITE / SKY BLUE / YELLOW

Members' Price: £17.50 each



CLASSIC UNISEX PIQUE POLO SHIRT

Sizes Available: XS 36" / S 38" / M 40" / L 42-44" / XL 46" / 2XL 48" / 3XL 50-52" / 4XL 54"

Colours Available: BLACK / NAVY / ROYAL / RED / BOTTLE GREEN / HEATHER GREY / MAROON / WHITE / SKY BLUE / YELLOW / KELLY GREEN / ORANGE / PURPLE / CHARCOAL

Members' Price: £14.99 each

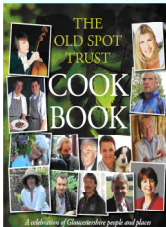
Availability on all above items: Normally 14-28 days from order. Note P&P charges applicable.



POLYESTER CLUB TIES

The ALL NEW Club Tie available **now**. Order now and be among the smart set!

Members' Price: £12.75 each



THE OLD SPOT TRUST COOK BOOK

Over 100 recipes from celebrities and others in Glos (including many GOS recipes) - sold in aid of good causes - an ideal gift. In stock. Softback 94pp. Members' Price: £7.50 each

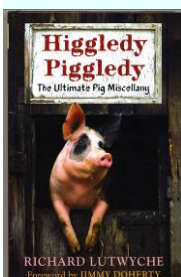
PIG KEEPING

Published by the National Trust - practical advice on small-scale pig keeping and breeding including sales and promotion of meat. Hardback 96pp illustrated. Members' Price £7.99 each



HIGGLEDY PIGGLEDY

Curious facts and information about pigs and their influence on mankind. A great gift for anyone interested in matters porcine. By Richard Lutwyche. Hardback 128pp + many photos. Members' Price £14.99 each



Check out our online Shop where there are further items including SALE lines offering great value for money.

Advertisements



FOR SALE

GOS Weaners—Peebleshire

Have 3 weaner boars for sale (Ellen X Gerald). Ready first week of March. Will be wormed, tagged/tattooed and birth notified. Can be registered if required.

Please call Lisa on 01968

660709 or e mail

hazlieburnpigs@gmail.com

Littleowls Sambo—S.Yorks

I have a September boar for sale

He is by Foston Sambo 48 cracking stamp of animal and sire to my show stock.

Mother is Middlelanherne Princess Freda 241, my best sow.

8 perfect underlines in whole litter. I am showing his full brother this year.

Call Jason 07876703159

GOS Weaners in Devon

Pedigree Old Spots. Dam Ballardsfield Bluebell 324, Sire Forthill Rufus 367. Born 17/01, ready 18/03 only 4 boars left. £45.00 each

Birth notified.

01822 832927

FOR SALE

Excellent Breeding Stock—Suffolk

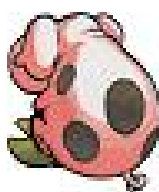
I have 3 boars and 3 gilts for sale born 26th Oct 2012 these are some of the best GOS you will find. The whole litter meets breed standard. Dam: Winterwood Princes 213 (Champion of Champions 2012) Sire: Endsleigh Rufus 2829. I am keeping some of this litter to show this year but sadly cannot keep all of them (so husband says.) They are far too good to go for meat. I am selling now because I am splitting them up - if interested please call me 01728 688324 Snape Suffolk

GOS Weaners—N.Yorkshire

GOS weaners will be ready Mid-March, gilts and boars. Will be weaned and wormed. Princess/Patrick lines. Born 17/01/13

<http://i204.photobucket.com/albums/bb220/fowgillfarm/P1260693.jpg>

For more details, to reserve your piglets or to arrange viewing please call Mandy 07979 858757



FOR SALE

Sows and Others For Sale—Herd Dispersal Lincs

I have for sale 4 Star Antoinette sows have had up to 16 piglet litter size, good mums, nice natured any serious offers considered—reluctant sale but all must go.

Also 1x8 month old Rufus boar registered with BPA nice friendly chap with good markings, will make an excellent breeder.

Also have 4 x 6 month old boars birth notified and 4x 6 motn old gilts open to sensible offers all must go!

Warren

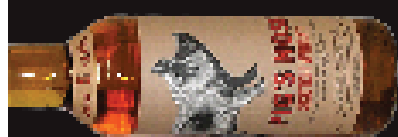
07759 013175

Breeding Stock West Sussex

GOS weaners will be ready mid-March, gilts and boars. Will be well grown and wormed as they leave. Outdoor born and raised.

Also I have two Princess Mary sows for sale, they are mother and daughter so can run together. Moira has given me six litters and her last she delivered 10 born alive. Maddy her daughter has given me three litters, the last was 12 born alive. They are both excellent mums and very good natured. Maddy has just been weaned and Moira has her litter still so they will run with my boar, a Sambo. They will be ready to go in April and will be due litters approx late May and Mid-July this year. My boar is available too, if desired.

Becky 07811 443264



Just one of

Over
700
different whiskies
available
from Arkwrights


whiskyandwines.com

UK & Worldwide delivery
Friendly and helpful advice

ARKWRIGHTS, THE DOERMERS,
HIGHWORTH, WILTS SN6 7PE

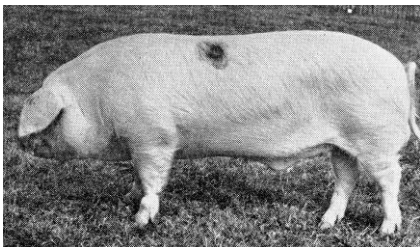
01793 765071



Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders' Club

Freeport (GL442)
Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 5BR

Phone: 01285 860229
E-mail: mail@oldspots.org.uk



Chedworth Venture 11, Male Champion at the Royal Show in 1961 for John Green.

SPOT PRESS

The next edition will be published in April/May and we invite contributions and suggestions as to what you would like to be included.

Edited by Richard Lutwyche

We thank all those contributors listed within these pages.

© GOSPBC & Richard Lutwyche

NEW Member Benefit!

'BREEDING' BRILLIANT!

25% exclusive online discount to members of the Old Spot Breeders' Association... courtesy of Pig in a Poke wines!

PAY FOR 9 BOTTLES AND WE DELIVER 12



Visit our online store at www.piginapokelive.com and enter your SNOUT321 exclusive discount code to receive 25% off all purchases.

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum purchase 6 bottles.

Pig in a Poke
The only wine with a 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE BOLDLY DESIGNED IN GREAT BRITAIN

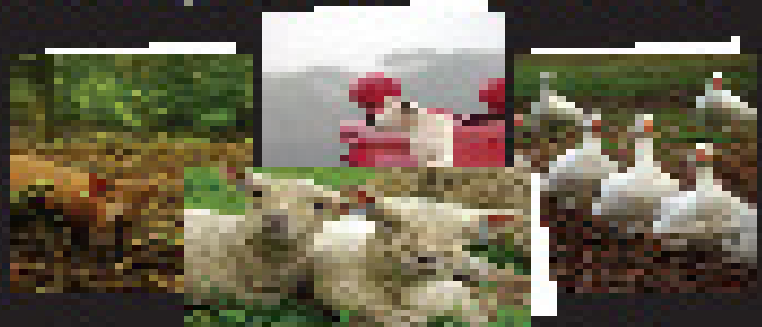
www.piginapokelive.com



Mandy Garbutt approached a wine company on our behalf for a prize for our Grand Draw (which they have generously provided) and further negotiated a **great deal for Club Members!** So, until further notice, you can buy delicious Old Spot wine (would you offer your friends anything else?) and get a great 25% discount on your purchases!

Follow the instructions on the ad on the left and start enjoying a great drink. In due course, we'll work out a way of adding details to the website once we can create a Members Only area so in the meantime, don't throw your Spot Press away until you've at least placed your first order.

Farm On A Card
www.farmonacard.co.uk



Unique handmade Farming and Countryside blank greeting cards

01428 707437/07731 784286
mail@farmonacard.co.uk